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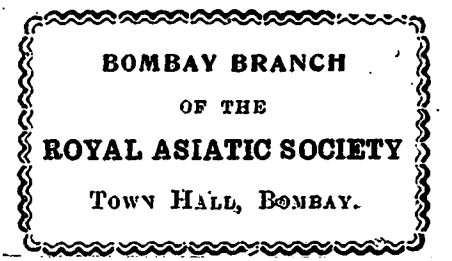

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TRAVELS IN BOLIVIA;

WITH A

TOUR ACROSS THE PAMPAS

TO

BUENOS AYRES, &c.

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BY

L. HUGH DE BONELLI,

OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S LEGATION.

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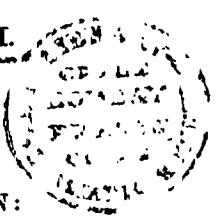
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



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TRAVELS IN BOLIVIA.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from Southampton—Arrival at Jamaica—Scene at the Theatre—An Execution—Slaves—St. Thomas—The Continent of South America first appears in sight—Santa Marta—Cartagena—Chagres.

On a bright morning in the beautiful month of May, when the soft and genial atmosphere has served to banish from our minds the severities of a past winter, and its long train of consequences, and we become young again, and sanguine in the anticipation of warmer days and brighter skies, I packed up bag and baggage to undertake, as a voluntary exile, for the space of three or more years, a voyage to the shores of the distant Pacific. I was

urged to the determination by a very great desire of acquiring a knowledge of the countries in the New World, which had been wholly withheld, or but partially afforded, by antecedent travellers. To obtain this end, I gladly secured the opportunity of personal observation, by accepting the office of Secretary to H. B. M. *Chargé d'Affaires*, at the head-quarters of the Bolivian Republic; and under such flattering auspices, I anticipated every facility towards the attainment of the object I had in view. After undergoing the painful ordeal of parting from friends and relatives, and bidding adieu, perhaps for ever, to long-remembered faces, I set sail from Southampton.

After a prosperous voyage from England, we drew near the beautiful island of Jamaica; crags, hills, mountains, and vales followed each other in quick succession, as the panorama passed rapidly before us. Every now and then a sudden ray of light would illuminate plantations of well cultivated cane, when the extensive works and comfortable habitations adjoining appeared in bold relief against the cocoa forest in the background; whilst snugly anchored in some

safe creek might be seen a West Indiaman laden with her luscious cargo, and ready to depart on her homeward voyage. All at once our steam is stopped, a boat approaches with a black pilot on board. Again we start amidst the shoals. Port Royal is close at hand, with her sweeping batteries frowning from the water's edge.

As we coast along within a stone's throw of the shore, we pass the line of battle or guard ship, commanded by the Commodore of the station, and near to which are anchored two steam vessels of war. A salute is fired as a high government officer is signalled. Our course is now shaped within the piles, and as we sweep round the bay or spacious harbour, we disturb from his repose many a ponderous pelican, who flaps his huge wings and takes to flight, then skims the water's brink, and darts upon its prey. Another battery is passed, after which a forest of masts appears, and close at hand is seen the picturesque city of Kingston; at the back, suburban houses, cottages, and gardens happily blend together in the pleasing picture; whilst large tracts of cultivated lands, amongst which beautiful villas are occa-

sionally interspersed, extend to the very base of the first range of hills, receiving the invigorating sea-breeze, which renders the air of this locality so particularly salubrious. The small town and barrack of Newcastle are here situated, the winter quarters of European troops, who remove from their high position in the summer time to an encampment in the plains beneath.

From this range of hills tower the mountains which give such a grandeur to the scene, adding, by the purple richness of their tints, the charms of colour to the many other beauties of this delightful country. Some of our passengers had now reached their destination;—I, together with many others, paid but a temporary visit to the Island, before proceeding on our way to Chagres. We were soon escorted to the Hotel of Madame Feron, where I was fortunate enough to obtain a sleeping room facing the north; a luxury which is fully appreciated in these southern climes. I was waited upon by a fat elderly *garçon*, who seemed to be butler, *majordomo*, and everything else—a gentleman of colour, as he called himself, and as black as a coal. He had lived, as

he told me, some time in England under the *cognomen* of Mr. Sambo Smut Miller, and seemed very anxious to do for me all the honours of "de. big house," of which, he informed me he understood "ticlar well de servic." After indulging in a bath, and partaking of the luxuries of a West Indian breakfast, followed by a mild Havannah in a rocking-chair, the bill of fare of an American theatre was placed in my hands, which determined me as to the character of my evening's amusement.

In company with two or three *compagnons de voyage*, I first of all sallied forth to see the Lions of the place, and procure certain necessaries for our transit across the Isthmus. The streets and lanes of the city are, with scarcely any exception, as bad as they can possibly be, notwithstanding their all being built at right angles, and of a very convenient breadth. Good houses are occasionally to be met with in Hanover Street, and the neighbourhood about it. In the High Street may be found large stores, outfitters, clock-makers, with a very average run of business, together with the Commercial Hotel, which is now under the superintendence of a French

man who was formerly cook on board one of the steamers. This house is conducted according to the American style. Everything is there enormously dear, with a great absence of real comfort. It is the great *rendezvous* of the captains of the Merchant Marine. In addition to the dismal appearance of the shops and houses, which seem to have seen better days, and are now fast falling into decay and ruin, the town possesses a great disadvantage in its pavements of white sand, into which the pedestrian, much to his annoyance, is continually sinking. The glare, too, from these pavements, during the oppressive heat of a noonday sun, is so painful to the eyes, that my rambles about the place were anything but agreeable. We bought a box of excellent cigars, at the rate of 12 dollars the thousand, and then hastened home to prepare for dinner, and our evening's amusement.

We enjoyed our repast amazingly; the wines, which did our host great credit, being delightfully iced, and very refreshing. We were kept the whole time in a perfect roar of laughter, from the facetious jokes, and amusing style of narration of the aforesaid

gentleman, who after taking the best part of three bottles of wine, and three or four glasses of French brandy, was in the highest state of spirits imaginable, which soon began to develop themselves in songs, hornpipes, and reels, much to our diversion. We persuaded our recruit to accompany us to our box at the theatre; but before leaving the house we completely metamorphosed him by dressing him up in some of our own clothes, so that he was at length turned out a regular beau.

The theatre was densely crowded; and nothing but black heads and white teeth were to be seen in every corner of the house, except in the boxes, which were well filled with elegant ladies, officers in uniform, and civilians. We were late in our arrival, and only just in time to witness the scene of Virginius raving before Appius Claudius, after having stabbed his child. The audience were very much affected, and tears were flowing copiously from many an eye. Miller had placed himself in the front of the box, and was beginning to participate in the general emotion, when all at once he was recognised by the negroes in the pit and

gallery. They immediately open their eyes and mouths in astonishment, and cry out at the top of their voices, "Ho! who dat? Massa Miller?" After this there is a general roar of applause—shout after shout continues for some time, with cries of "Bravo! bravo! —Hurrah! hurrah!—Miller for ebber!" The worthy who had attracted all this attention most graciously acknowledges the compliment by several profound bows, and displays, with much apparent ostentation, a conspicuous gold ring, which we had placed upon his hand, over a white kid glove. This elicits still greater applause. At length, when silence is restored, after all are pretty well hoarse with shouting, some one in the pit begins to whistle vociferously. This sets Miller in a tremendous passion, who calls out to the offending gentleman, "Who dat insult a gemman who trabble him all ober de world." This little bit of by-play was even too much for the gravity of the actors. Virginius rolled backwards and forwards, ready to split his sides with convulsive laughter; Virginia, though she had been first killed in due form, according to the sad *dénouement* of the painful tragedy, showed

evident signs of participation in the general mirth, and actors and audience joined in one united burst of merriment. This state of confusion, in which hisses, hootings, and whistling mixed themselves with the uproarious applause, seemed likely to last for some time; and, anticipating a more serious disturbance if we remained longer, partly by persuasion and partly by force, we managed to get our man away from the position where his presence had so completely broken in upon the order of the evening's proceedings, and hurried him home, where we left him, safe and sound at last in the bosom of his family.

After the adventure of the evening, we were discussing its strange features over a glass of iced *sangaree* and a cigar, when we learnt that three black fellows were to be hanged early the next morning for murder, committed on the road to Spanish Town upon the person of a carpenter, who had received a large sum of money, and was carrying it home. The culprits were condemned on circumstantial evidence alone, though the proofs of their guilt were very satisfactory. This opportunity of witnessing an execution caused our party to determine to be present upon

the occasion. After a good night's repose—thanks to the mosquito curtains, which effectually kept our tiny tormentors at bay—we were awoke early by the continued bustle of passers-by, hastening to the great square which was to be the scene of the awful event of the day. Calling up my companions, we were soon in motion, and joining the throng of persons in the street, made the best of our way to the great *rendezvous*. In the centre of the spacious square, around which were congregated the principal buildings of the place—such as the church, theatre, market-place, and barracks for the West India black regiments,—we came in full view of the preparations for the sad event which was so soon to be transacted. A stage and scaffolding had been erected, and four regiments were drawn up in the square, whose glittering and conspicuous accoutrements were well contrasted with the black crowd of men, women, and children, who had assembled in every part of the square whence a view of the execution could be procured. Many of the women sobbed aloud, and much sympathy was manifested for the unfortunate criminals.

As the time approached for carrying the

sentence into effect, a general buzz ran through the crowd, and presently all eyes were turned in a particular direction. In a cart, seated on their coffins, appeared the condemned criminals, dressed in white; their downcast countenances and their nervous deportment plainly showing the painful feelings which were struggling within them. Near them were seated the hangman and his deputy, together with a small escort of soldiers. When the cart had arrived at the place where the gallows had been erected, the two functionaries immediately sprang upon the platform, and placed a coffin under each drop. The poor men, who were about to suffer death, were so overwhelmed with terror at seeing the preparations which were being made, that it was found necessary to assist them in ascending the steps. They were then placed upon their coffins, and the ropes adjusted; when at a given signal, the coffins were thrust from under them, and the two bodies, after a few convulsive movements, hung motionless from the beam, showing that the spark of life had fled.

The immense concourse of spectators were

deeply interested in this melancholy scene, during the whole of which a profound silence prevailed. Just after the fatal termination of the day's proceedings, some ill-disposed person in the crowd made a sudden rush, exclaiming at the same time—"Here they come." This had the effect of creating a regular panic; and a general scream, which followed, only served to increase the confusion. I found myself carried off my legs by the force of the mob, imagining that some mad bull had broken loose, so great was the terror and alarm depicted on every countenance. On every hand I beheld women and children thrown down, and trodden under foot, without a chance of their being rescued; and before it was possible to assure the people that they were foolishly yielding to a false alarm, many had been seriously injured, if not killed, in the awful state of pressure to which they had been subjected. My friends and myself being separated in the confusion of the moment, we arrived at our hôtel singly, glad to find ourselves and each other not much the worse for the part we had been reluctantly compelled to take in the scene from which we had but just escaped.

Whilst we were taking our breakfast, poor Miller made his appearance, with a chop-fallen countenance, and a wet cloth bandaged round his head, complaining of a racking headache. He began to upbraid us with our conduct in making him drunk, and bringing upon him all the subsequent sufferings he had undergone. We all expressed our sorrow at the sad result, which we had never contemplated, and sincerely condoled with him on the misfortunes we had been partly the means of occasioning. As I had been commissioned to deliver a small parcel at a house a few miles distant, I proposed to the poor invalid that he should serve me as a guide, hoping that the exercise and the fresh air might remove the unpleasant effects of the previous evening. We accordingly started, and whilst on the way, Miller, making use of some excuse, prevailed on me to stop at a house in the outskirts of the city, which I soon discovered to be his own.

I found it exceedingly clean and comfortable, and was introduced to Mrs. Miller, who, with her little black progeny, came forward to pay their respects to me. This good lady told me how her husband, when he

got among gentlemen, and began to talk about England, invariably carried matters too far, by a too free indulgence in the spirituous drinks with which they treated him. Miller, whose countenance too well betokened his late potations, here drew a deep sigh, and said nothing. He was particularly relieved when I proposed to cut short the visit, which I did after presenting each of the young ones with a dollar a-piece, making them exhibit their beautiful white teeth to great advantage. I was particularly struck with the ridiculous resemblance between father and children; the latter presenting an exact counterpart, in miniature, of their parent's physiognomy.

Having taken leave of the family, I proceeded, in company with my *cicerone*, to execute the errand which had brought me so early from home. Our road lay through a large collection of clean cottages, to which small gardens were attached, in which everything was laid out with the strictest regard to regularity and neatness. We passed also several farms situated in smiling meadows and pasture land, where many herds of cattle and flocks of thriving sheep were indus-

triously grazing; the owners, with their happy faces, as they stood at their homestead doors saluting the passer-by, or offering him a hearty welcome into their comfortable homes. I noticed several females, whilst pursuing their avocations, to be showily dressed, and decorated with large gold earrings, and other ornaments, thus bespeaking a happy ease in circumstances. And these people, who now seemed surrounded with every comfort, and whose mode of life promised every enjoyment they could desire—these people were the once wretched, maligned, and ill-treated African negroes, torn from their native land, and every tie of affection, to become the base slaves of their fellow-man. But the glorious act of emancipation has set them free. The spirit of the Gospel has at last been acted upon, and now they breathe a new existence. The influence of education, honourable industry, and the possession of wealth, has made them what they are—I assert, without fear of contradiction—as virtuous and loyal a class of persons as any to be found within the dominions of the British crown.

The profits of the planters who formerly

drew their princely fortunes out of the sweat and toil of their miserable slaves, to dissipate them in vice and luxury in far distant lands, have now fallen to the usual average of commercial gain. These have learnt, in their turn, to know the value of that labour which they exacted from their fellow-men, persecuted and goaded to their tasks contrary to every divine law and maxim of sound morality; and now they find themselves under the necessity of paying for it as equitable a sum as they would for any other commodity, and of thus realizing only sufficient profit to satisfy the desires of reasonable men,—not the avaricious cravings of the rapacious votaries of princely magnificence. These West Indian nabobs have now ceased to be; but, phœnix-like, from their ashes has arisen a new generation of human beings, and he that was once the poor, pitied, and dgraded African slave, is now the free, intelligent, and industrious British subject, true to his God and his country, and to those blessed laws and institutions that have made him free.

These reflections were suggested in the course of our drive by the remarks elicited

during a conversation with my trusty guide, and fully corroborated by my own personal observation. After having performed the object of our journey, we returned safe to the hotel, my companion being glad to find that the influence of the country air had wholly cured him of his headache, and myself well pleased to have gained much useful information, and to have satisfied my eyes with the blessed fruits of negro emancipation. I was soon informed by my friends of the arrival of the steamer, and the necessity of our immediate embarkation, as she would leave the island when the mails had been taken on board. After satisfying all demands we parted with much regret from our friend, poor Miller, who blubbered like a child at the thought of our leaving him.

When we found ourselves safe on board, we looked about us, and began to discover many new faces amongst our fellow-passengers. Amongst them were a beautiful Spanish *senorita*, accompanied by her mother and servant; a French fencing master and his son, a charming little boy; and two Germans, one of whom, the instant he saw me, rushed into my arms, to my great asto-

nishment, calling me the *sehr gut* English gentleman who had relieved him, and given him all sorts of good things, in the great Canādo, on the road to Mexico." The circumstance was as follows:—

One evening, being in company with two military friends, with whom I was travelling to the capital of Montezuma (for, gentle reader, I was not, at this time, quite a novice in the art of travelling, but had already explored many interesting portions of the New World), we made a halt for the night, after a fatiguing hot ride through the intricacies of this mountain-pass, at a small Indian village within its precincts. Having lighted our fire, and proceeded to select our evening's meal from a variety of game, the produce of our morning's sport, consisting of parrots, squirrels, and *carpinteros*, a very beautiful kind of woodpecker, we were deeply occupied in the process of cleaning, plucking, and trussing, for the evening's bivouac. Whilst all this was going on, one of our scouts informed us that a poor, beggarly wanderer, to all appearance a European, was passing close at hand. I immediately started up, and following the directions of

my servant, soon overtook him. Light hair and white skin, though much sunburnt and freckled, proclaimed his European birth, his outward man exhibiting the clearest indications of the most squalid misery and abject want. Not answering in English, French, Italian, or Spanish, I found it was necessary, in order to make him understand, to have recourse to some other language. Mustering, therefore, for the occasion, my little stock of German, I drew forth from him a long rambling story, the greater part of which I was unable to comprehend. However, imagining from his appearance that food and shelter was what he most needed, I conducted him back to my companions, who took compassion on his apparent misery, loaded him with an abundance of good things, and subscribed a dollar a-piece for the alleviation of his present wants. The wayfarer then departed, well stocked with provisions, and full of gratitude for our timely kindness and consideration.

He now appeared before me under different auspices. The wretched mendicant of the Mexican Canādo was now metamorphosed into a cabin-passenger, and a

gentleman of distinction. He was very profuse in his expressions of gratitude for the services I had formerly rendered him, and I found him an excellent companion, and jovial in the extreme. He now explained to me the cause of his altered appearance since the time we had last met. It appeared that his avocation had made it necessary for him to visit yearly the capital of Mexico, with some hundreds of horses from the States of Columbia and North America. On one occasion he had been waylaid by the robbers who infest the territories of that Republic, and left for dead, after being stripped and wounded; whilst one of his companions, a countryman of his, had been killed. Having suffered many injuries, and a great loss of doubloons in this adventure, he resolved, ever afterwards, to adopt a plan which should ensure his being unmolested. As his presence in the capital, where he effected rapid sales, and realized large sums of money, was a signal for these desperadoes to look out for his departure, he had many times eluded their vigilance by leaving Mexico in the disguise of a beggar, having secreted on his person several hundred ounces of gold.

So completely had his artifice succeeded, that on more than one occasion he had received from these robbers a *madio* in the way of charity. It was whilst thus wandering about in his disguise that I had met him; and in the course of the recital of the causes which had led to it, I was much diverted to find I had been so effectually duped, in common with others.

After we had been a short time at sea, the weather became excessively cold and unpleasant. We had a succession of slight gales, which made the vessel pitch and roll, much to our discomfort, and a continuance of rain which rendered the atmosphere hazy, and hindered our prospect. As these subsided, the island of St. Thomas began to show itself, with its numerous bays and outlets, once the retreat of hordes of pirates who infested these seas, to the terror of every one who came within their reach. After passing the small straits, under the guns of a Danish brig-of-war, we entered the spacious harbour, in front of which, situated amongst the hills, is the neat and cleanly town of Port Franco, the capital of the island. The steamer drew up alongside of the Company's coal *depôt*,

at some distance from the town; when, in company with a friend, I jumped ashore, to proceed on an exploring expedition amongst the rocks, in search of lobsters. As we ascended upon the heights, through a maze of aloes and cactus, deep beneath us was seen the charming little bay, like an inland lake, surrounded by an amphitheatre of rocks, rising one above another, and covered with pretty dwarf trees, aromatic shrubs, and beautiful flowers; and at the base of all this was a soft carpet of glittering sand, where lay scattered a multitude of variegated shells, bathed by the white foam of the retiring tide.

Here and there the blue waters reflected in their crystal clearness many a grotto of rocks that stood above their surface, whose beautifully modelled forms were studded by myriads of shell-fish, which clung in fantastic shapes to their projecting points, whilst in the deep channels which the waves had traced, the fish which had lately sported and revelled in their native element, were now snared and caught, and remained high and dry in the spots where the retiring waves had left them. Considering that the place seemed

to promise us every success, we endeavoured to secure some of these denizens of the deep; but, being unprovided with the proper means for taking them, we found ourselves obliged to return to the ship completely bespattered with mud and dirt, having made only one capture—that of a lobster of eight pounds weight. We had no sooner made our report to those on board than a party was formed for the purpose of indulging in the sport, the result of which was the capture of five-and-twenty or more fish of various kinds in a very short time. Our stay at this island being limited, to merely sufficient time for procuring an extra supply of coals, and for taking in the mails, I determined to avail myself of the short period allowed me for paying it a visit.

The first object which presented itself to me on landing was a ruinous fort or citadel, bearing the marks of age on its weather-beaten walls, with its solitary sentry pacing to and fro at the drawbridge. Advancing into the town, I found it clean and well-built, with one principal street facing the sea, running from one extremity of the place to the other, and undulating with the

hilly nature of the ground. In this street a few very good houses, with stores and a spacious hotel, formed the most conspicuous features. The other buildings consisted of several unattractive churches and a number of wooden shops, in which were sold all varieties of every necessary article. The smaller streets branching from the main one were chiefly occupied by slaves.

At the time I visited it, the city was densely filled with emigrants from Martinique and Guadaloupe, in consequence of an outbreak amongst the black population in those islands. It was quite heartrending to behold large families thus forced to leave their comfortable homes and plantations, with scarcely time to save their lives, or procure a single shilling for their future wants, and reduced to every misery and deprivation in a foreign land. The Danes, greatly to their honour, notwithstanding their own scanty means, did all in their power to alleviate the distress of these persons, thus driven from necessity to seek their hospitality and an asylum from the evils to which they had been exposed in their own country.

I dined at the hotel, and had the pleasure

of receiving as my guest, through the instrumentality of a Danish officer, one of those fine old specimens of the ancient *noblesse Française*, the staunch adherents of the unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth. Though overwhelmed in his old age with the terrible calamities which had befallen his country, I found his society very entertaining. He enlivened his discourse according to the true French fashion with many an anecdote and *jeu d'esprit*, and, the time of my visit to the island having at length expired, I parted from him with much reluctance, and withdrew on board the steamer.

Early the next morning we bade adieu to the little Danish colony, and made rapid progress for the Spanish Main. As I approached the land, where the daring spirit of a Cortes, Pizarro, or Almegro found a vent for the rapacious cruelty of the age in which they lived, in the oppression of the feeble and defenceless race of the Incas, a slight feeling of regret came over me at the thought of leaving the vessel in which I had steered so happy a course, and which seemed to me a tie of affection, binding me to that land, whence I had started, and which had

been so long endeared to me by every principle of love and gratitude. I was now about to tread these foreign and unknown shores, perchance in sickness and in sorrow, without even a sympathetic tear to moisten the stranger's grave. A passing sigh escaped me whilst thus bringing before my mind the probable events of my future life, and rendering a tribute of affection to the many kind friends I had left behind me. But my reverie was of short continuance; and, as I looked landward, where the low line of coast was clearly discernible, my hopes became again buoyant at the anticipation of many pleasing adventures in the countries to which I was proceeding.

As we approached the entrance of the harbour of Santa Marta, which is well backed by several high hills and rocks opening into the bay, the ruined battery that once commanded the harbour was plainly visible, though now remaining merely as a vestige of the Spanish rule in bygone days. The view from this point of the fair and interesting land of Columbia—the land where was kindled the first flame of South American liberty—the land of the great Simon Bolivar, and the

theatre of most of his far-famed exploits—is worthy of notice. Ten minutes' walk from the pebbly beach stands the small town of Santa Marta, of Spanish origin, and which, being laid out according to a geometrical plan, presents, when seen at a distance, a very agreeable uniformity; but on being entered is, without exception, as dirty and miserable a hole as can well be imagined. Not very far off is the river Magdalena, which is navigable for many miles into the interior of the country, and is the means of conveying goods in small craft as far as the capital, Bogota. As the eye wanders over the adjacent territories, stretched on either side are seen a succession of plains, beautiful and verdant, and as smooth as a bowling-green, watered by numerous streamlets, and in some parts gracefully clothed with cover and young wood. In the background appears, veiled in deep tints of ultra-marine, a thickly-wooded Alpine range of hills, towering above which, into the very skies, the giant Cordilleras half conceal their frowning heads, save when a ray of silver light pierces the gloom, and distinctly brings to view their snow-clad summits.

A short visit on shore having completed all arrangements, another bevy of passengers was introduced on board our vessel. Amongst these were the American *Chargé d'Affaires*, his wife, four daughters, a son, and a female servant; an American commodore, a regular Sam Slick in his way, and one of the real go-a-head, calculating, and guessing sort—though a most amusing and jolly companion, who had no objection to join in the laugh against himself and his own jokes; and a couple of *padres* about to join their order at Panama. At this new shipment of American beauty, the young gentlemen of our party began to buck up, and tried to outvie each other in doing the amiable. Pleasant little parties were formed, and, weather permitting, quadrilles were set on foot, together with various other amusements, in order to make the time pass agreeably.

The moon had now gained her full, and throughout the night shed her brilliant light upon the rippling waves, as she fast rolled her course through many a fleecy and fantastic cloud. O'er the waters where her dazzling orb lay mirrored, soft and gentle zephyrs occasionally swept, and the quiet of the scene

was disturbed only by the dashing of the waves against our noble ship, as she majestically pursued her course along the placid surface of the deep. Everything on board partook of the calm stillness that reigned around. Many leant over the vessel's side in deep meditation, as they listlessly watched her track on the ruffled waves, or stood in groups, and followed with anxious gaze the pale moon's course, whilst they mused together on the tranquil scene. Could we have read each other's inmost thoughts at that moment, what a volume would have been unfolded of painful or pleasurable feelings, of self-congratulations or regrets at the memory of the past, and of hopes or fears at the anticipation of the future!

Possibly the death-like silence which prevailed, served only to renew the bitter pangs which life's bustle and excitement had long since banished from the mind. Each was intent upon the subject of his thoughts, as they fast flowed under the soothing influence of the pensive hour, when, all at once, several soft and well blended voices struck upon the ear. The spell was broken. Faces that but just before expressed the deep reverie into

which the mind was cast, were now mantled with a smile, as all chimed in with heartfelt emotion in singing the lively chorus. We had now a musical treat for the rest of the evening. A succession of delightful pieces chosen from the best English and Italian masters, were ably executed, and gave us all great satisfaction; and with light hearts we at length retired to rest, to enjoy refreshing repose, and to lose ourselves in the strange scênes and delights which Dreamland affords.

The next morning, the city of Cartagena—once a strong-hold of the Spaniards, came to view, with its sea-girt fastnesses, fortified walls and bastions, now greatly neglected, and falling into ruin and decay, as is the case with all the great defences formerly built by the Spaniards. Steering along by the outworks of the city, we entered an inlet in the main land, leading to a spacious land-locked bay, the mouth of which is defended by two batteries or little isolated forts, beautifully constructed of stone, having large guns in pigeon-holes, which are pierced from the water's edge to the batteries above, and command every position. A landing and

commodious harbour skirt the city, which is alike secure from the danger of a foe, and the fury of the elements; the country all around being one continued forest. The *provedor* was about to leave the ship in his boat, in order to take in certain necessaries, when I took passage with him to reconnoitre the town, which, from its antiquated buildings, narrow streets, and fortress-looking character, bears the impress of a very ancient date. I visited several large stores, filled with all sorts of commodities; and thence I went to the market-place—a large building—or more properly a shed, constructed of poles and bamboos, and thatched with plaintain leaves.

Here I found congregated hundreds of persons in the act of buying or selling. The latter, who were chiefly Negroes, for the most part decorated with gold ear-rings and other ornaments, sat squatted upon the ground. Amongst them was a fair sprinkling of Indians and Mulattoes. Piled up in their front were the several commodities in which they dealt. Little mountains of water-melons, pumpkins, plantains, pines, bananas, mangoes, oranges, potatoes, and flowers, were

ranged in close conjunction ; whilst turkeys, fowls, ducks, every kind of fowl and game, fish of all varieties, and turtles, together with an abundance of eggs, furnished their different supplies. I was particularly attracted by some exquisitely worked Indian straw mats, hammocks, fans, and baskets, and made purchase of several specimens. Having concluded my bargains, and seen everything in the place that was worthy of note, I got into the boat to return to the vessel, which we had no sooner reached than preparations were made for our departure, and Cartagena was speedily lost to sight.

For the last few days during which we were approaching the Spanish Main, heavy fogs, squalls, and torrents of rain came on at intervals, and were followed by occasional gleams of sunshine, showing the commencement of the rainy season. Being now near my *pied à terre*, the captain of the steamer, with his accustomed kindness, gave orders that a hamper of necessaries should be got ready against my disembarkation. This liberal supply was intended to assist me in crossing the Isthmus, and consisted of a couple of roast fowls, a tongue, cheese, and

biscuits, together with two bottles of porter, one of sherry, one of champagne, and one of brandy. The last night which I spent on board the vessel was the occasion of much mirth and jollification, the pleasure of which the thought of our separation on the morrow tended greatly to damp. It is strange how attached persons become to each other in the course of a short sea voyage. The stiffness and formality of ordinary society become gradually relaxed, and an easy and polite familiarity takes their place, uniting together people of every grade and character on terms of the most intimate intercourse. It is when the time of parting arrives that we begin to value the acquaintances we have made—now, perhaps, lost to us for ever. We passed the evening in the interchange of every kind wish and sentiment. Early next morning, under a lowering sky, Chagres was reached.

CHAPTER II.

Landing at Chagres—Passage up the river—Gorgonda —Cruces—Crossing the Isthmus—Adventures in the forest — View of the Pacific Ocean — Panama— The Scotch Watchmaker's story of the Pirate's Isle—Steaming for Callao—Passengers on board— River of Guayaquil and town.

It was in the month of July, 1848, that I at last set foot on the American continent, at Chagres. It was early in the morning, the day threatened rain, and was most unusually foggy. At the extremity of a bay, formed by the rocks which run inland, stands the town, if a collection of huts, hovels, and mud-houses deserves that appellation. It possesses a harbour, on one side of which are the ruins

of a large fort commanding the entrance, and on the other, the *embouchure* of the river Chagres, which here joins a low and swampy coast, after having pursued its course imbedded in wood and jungle. After landing on the quay, our luggage was thrown ashore without a shed or shelter of any kind being provided to protect it. I collected everything belonging to myself together into one heap, the natives being so independent they will render you no assistance for love or money, and in a very short time the rain came down in right good earnest, and I was completely drenched to the skin. It was no time to be idle; and as for remaining in the place, that was out of the question, amongst a population of blacks, Indians, and half-bred Choloes, who are brutal and uncivil in the extreme; and for the accommodation even of a hen-roost, are satisfied with nothing less than gold. By the side of the landing, I found a large assortment of canoes of different sizes, protected by a small thatched house over each. In one of these, like a toad in a hole, you take up your quarters for the river navigation, which is an undertaking of rather an arduous character, the

stream running with prodigious force, and opposing your progress every inch of the way. Having despatched the Custom-house officers, who were vexatiously turning over and examining my effects, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, I struck my bargain with some of the boatmen, and finally embarked on my course up the river.

A little fleet of canoes soon after joined me, whose company afforded me much amusement, and served to make me forget all the *desagrémens* of my first landing. The river, as I proceeded, presented a noble breadth, and was fringed on either side by a continuation of impenetrable forests and jungle, a large portion of which was actually growing out of its bed. It was surprising to me how the black sailors managed to combat against the impetuous stream, sometimes guiding their little bark into a dense thicket formed of branches of trees, at first sight appearing to defy our entrance, and then issuing on the other side into the open and unencumbered river. At other times the violence of the current was such that the boat was whirled into the middle of the stream, and for a time entirely at its mercy,

so that in the course of a few minutes we found that we had retrograded the distance through which we advanced in the course of the previous hour. After one of these mishaps I discovered myself to be alongside of the boat which contained the American Consul and his family. As the ladies of the United States are particularly sensitive in regard to any breach of the laws of decency and decorum, I was surprised to find the boat manned by a set of sturdy blacks, who had divested themselves of every article of clothing, and were boldly conducting their lovely charge with no lack of good humour, wholly regardless of the blushes they elicited. Night setting in, we were obliged to pull up at a clear space in the river, their being great danger in advancing after it is dark, on account of the way being continually impeded by the trees and large branches, which line the banks.

On landing we found ourselves in the midst of cultivated ground, whereon stood several ronchoes and cottages inhabited by negroes and Indians, in front of which a large concourse of these black families was asembled, and enjoying the delights of dancing to the sound

of the *chum chum*, and the noisy chorus of the merry spectators. We were all much diverted by the grotesque movements of these people, the scene being rendered highly picturesque by the flickering glare of a multitude of fire torches distributed in every direction. After partaking of sundry refreshments, which I had brought with me from the steamer, we contrived to while away a few hours very agreeably, and then returned to our canoe to sleep away the drowsy hours of the night as well as circumstances would allow.

Early next morning we made another start, and soon found that the river became bound within narrower limits. The extensive virgin forests which had hitherto marked our course gradually diminished, and bare rocks and high embankments supplied their place. We stopped at a cottage, and were fortunate enough to procure a good supply of eggs, which, together with a little tea from our canteen, furnished us with an excellent breakfast. Towards the latter end of the day we arrived at the village of Gorgonda, containing a number of

decent houses, and a *posada*, or inn. Scrambling up the banks, where, on account of the late heavy rains, we had difficulty in extricating our legs from the thick mud, oftentimes losing a shoe or a boot in the course of our struggles, we soon found ourselves in the inn, and ensconced in tolerable quarters, since, in addition to everything we could reasonably require in the way of meat and drink, we were offered the luxury of a bed—one which in this part of the world is not to be disdained, however exorbitant might be the charge. Feeling inclined for a bath, I ventured as far as the river alone, hoping to enjoy the cool and refreshing water in the bright rays of the moon, which had just then arisen in all her nightly splendour. I had divested myself of my clothes, and was about to plunge into the stream from one of the boats, when I perceived two or three black objects at some distance, which at first I took for logs of wood floating down the river. Regarding them, however, more intently, they seemed to advance and then disappear, upon which I hallooed to a boatman in care of one of the boats, who was lying down and smoking; and right glad I was

that I did so, for he informed me that what I had been looking at were nothing more nor less than alligators, who would speedily have made me disappear, had I been so imprudent as to place myself within their reach. Thanking my lucky stars for my escape from the danger which had threatened me, I scampered back again to my bed, with the full determination never again to run the risk of forming an evening meal for these voracious creatures.

The next morning we embarked for the town of Cruces; and after a very pleasant cruise, the river winding throughout the course, and forming various small bays surrounded with wood and pasture scenery, it appeared in sight; being a long, straggling, and uncomfortable looking place, little better than an Indian village. At the upper end of it was the house of the *Governador*, to whom I had a letter of recommendation. On being introduced to him, I found myself in the presence of a little old man, who was evidently the innkeeper of the place, for he was surrounded by a host of persons who were paying their bills for the accommodation they had received, which proved not

very considerable, when I learnt six or seven persons had been billeted in the same room. Owing to the great demand for mules, we were obliged to remain here all night, and as there was a large assemblage of travellers, I took care to keep a sharp look out upon my luggage, which was to last me during a sojourn of three years in this country.*

Several of my friends having procured horses, we were determined to push on at once for Panama, and there await the arrival of their goods and chattels. To this course I particularly objected in my own case, and therefore I made up my mind to pass the night in the place, and follow on with my baggage on the morrow. Having taken up my position in a small barn or out-house on the premises, I was left unmolested, and after having partaken of a welcome meal of eggs and grilled meat, I left the house and began to look about me. The first object

* Let me here caution travellers on leaving their canoes, never to lose sight of their luggage till they have seen the whole of it safely deposited under cover. If they use not this precaution, they might find themselves *minus* some portion of their cargo when far from the place, without the slightest chance of redress.

which struck my attention was an old church, by the side of which was a primitive belfry, consisting of three poles tied together in the form of a gallows, with three bells suspended from them. I entered this rustic building, the interior of which, like many others which I subsequently saw in South America, was as grotesque and barbarous as the bigoted curate whom I met there was rude and unlettered. Saints of every kind were painted, or to speak more properly, daubed about in all directions, resembling rather clowns and mountebanks than the sacred personages they professed to depict. There were religious subjects of every description as well as allegorical pictures, in which the most unchristianlike forms were introduced, mixed with animals of the most chimerical and disgusting character. In the stillness of this sanctuary, I observed several persons who seemed wrapt in fervent prayer, ignorantly regarding the objects before them with a superstitious awe and reverence. On leaving the edifice, I strolled through the town, the inhabitants of which were for the most part at their doors, and enjoying the afternoon's amusement. This consisted of certain feats of horseman-

ship performed by men and women, who rode their animals with wonderful adroitness, sometimes lifting each other completely out of the saddle whilst galloping at full tilt, then stopping short and chasing each other in all directions, even following them into the houses, amidst shouts of laughter from the lookers on. Others amused themselves and others by picking up rings, handkerchiefs, and other articles, whilst riding their horses at the full extent of their speed. After witnessing these exploits till I was completely tired, I returned to my shed, where I passed a good night, notwithstanding the miserable accommodation the place afforded. After breakfast on the following morning, the Governor sent for me to inform me that he had been able to procure me baggage mules, and a horse for my especial use, together with the attendance of two *mozos* or servants. As there was no alternative, I had to wait hour after hour for their arrival, which did not take place till the afternoon.

Thus furnished, I prepared to set out. The traffic at this time across the Isthmus was so great that the supply of mules and horses for

the transit was greatly deficient, and I had reason to think myself fortunate in not being detained longer than was the case. Before leaving the place, however, I was enabled to render essential service to the American *Chargé d'Affaires*, when all his family, servants, and a large pile of trunks and boxes made their appearance just previous to my departure. None of the party could speak or understand a word of Spanish, and found themselves from this cause in a very sad dilemma; and I transacted for them all their business as well as I could, saw them make a fair start, and on the arrival of my goods and cattle was soon in stirrup and in the act of commencing my overland journey. On entering the large forest which covers this portion of the Isthmus, the effect of the rainy season was everywhere apparent. Large *pantanos* or pools of water had been formed, and the mud in some places had accumulated so much that the roads were hardly passable. The horses and mules were every moment stumbling into holes, and as they lay on the ground floundering under their loads, they experienced the greatest difficulty in regaining their footing. The

day, which was bright at intervals, often became all of a sudden dark and obscure. Then, almost as quick as thought, down would come a sheet of water, almost enough to wash a person out of his saddle, the animals all the while turning their backs to the squalls, and defying every means used to induce them to proceed. Leaving my servants and their charge to get on as best they could, I broke into one of the numberless tracks with which the Isthmus is covered, preferring to ride amongst the green wood, and so avoid the deep and miry quagmires to be found upon the highroad. After following the track for some time, I found that I had lost my way amidst the intricacies of the forest, and I wasted many hours in crossing and recrossing various streamlets and gullets in the hope of being able to recover the right road. I was determined, however, to push on, and hallooed every now and then, in order to attract the attention of passers-by, or to gain information from the natives in case I happened to be in the vicinity of any village. I found myself at last responded to by female voices, and hastening to the spot from whence the sounds proceeded, I soon gained the

road, where I beheld the whole party of American ladies together with their servants in a sad plight. Drenched with water and splashed up to their very eyes, they looked more like a set of negroes than fair descendants of the Anglo-Saxon race. Some had fallen off their horses, who were tramping about upon the morass, and dismay and bewilderment seemed to have taken possession of the whole party. On seeing me, there was a general exclamation of delight.

They told me that they had lost their way in endeavouring to discover a better route amongst the trees, and that after wandering about for a length of time in search of the old track, they had at last despatched the Consul himself, hoping that he might fall in with the provision mule which had been left behind, as, after all their annoyances and fatigues, they were quite famished with hunger. They had now waited a considerable time without having seen or heard anything of him, and as the sun was getting very low in the heavens, they had begun quite to despair, when they fortunately heard my cry. After sympathizing with them on the disasters which had befallen them, I gave

them everything I had, which was a small box of dried preserves, a treat which was duly appreciated, and for which they were very warm in their expressions of gratitude. I now joined their party, having lost sight of my own luggage, and not knowing in what direction it might be, glad under any circumstances to be of service to the poor benighted and bewildered ladies. We therefore proceeded together in the hopes of meeting with some casual travellers who might give us information as to where the right track lay. The road, as we advanced, became very narrow, and divided in the centre by an enormous landslip, occasioned, no doubt, by the late heavy rains. There was a passage on each side walled by projecting rocks, very much sunken, and so confined that there was scarcely room for a loaded mule to pass.

Just as we were on the point of entering this defile, the tramp of mules and voices was heard, and presently appeared the advanced guard of persons travelling in charge of treasure forwarded across the Isthmus for the return steamer to Europe. Mule after mule then came in sight, laden

with its precious cargo, each one seeming to follow the bent of his inclination, and straggling about pretty much as he chose. One had lain down under some trees, exhausted with the weight he bore, and was not able to rise again from the ground, till the rear guard came up and rendered his assistance. It is strange with what little caution large sums of money are conveyed through so apparently dangerous a locality. I noticed that the guards, so far from having their muskets ready for use on any sudden emergency, carried them carefully wrapt up in green baize strongly corded to protect them from the rust. However, I was informed that only two attempts at robbery had been made on the convoy in the course of several years, which naturally abated my astonishment at the seemingly ineffectual measures taken for their protection. From the officer in command I received the intelligence that the road in advance of us was in a very bad condition, and it was evident, as the sun was fast setting, that we should be in total darkness in a very short time. He advised, as the distance to Panama was very considerable, that the best course for us to adopt was to

remain for the night at two *Ranchos*, a short way off, having no doubt that our companions and luggage mules had taken the other road. We resolved to act upon this advice, the plan proposed appearing to us so feasible, and made off as fast as we could to the place indicated.

On our arrival at the *Ranchos*, we found them occupied by two young gentlemen; one an officer in the Bolivian service, and the other an architect in the employ of the same Government. They politely gave up to the ladies the use of the large room of which they had taken possession. The only thing to be procured in this miserable abode was a small supply of *Bananas*. There was not even water, and we had to go and fetch it for ourselves from a neighbouring stream. The night was passed as well as circumstances would permit, and early on the following day the two Bolivians started. I remained behind with my fair companions, but found that they were determined not to proceed till they had received a change of raiment. They urged me, therefore, to press forward to Panama and send them succour; which I consented to do, and immediately set

out on my travels. The road lay on a gradual ascent, and I found myself by degrees emerging from the forest, the clearage becoming everywhere more conspicuous, as large rents of earth with variegated *strata* occasionally met the eye. I turned upon my saddle to take a view of this little barrier between the two oceans, and look over a broad expanse of wood, undulating with the retiring valleys or rising in majesty over the brow of some lofty hill. Fresh foliage flourished everywhere, and many a lovely flower was seen loading with its rich perfume the balmy breeze.

Advancing on my route, I gained a prominence whence I witnessed one of those manifest panoramas which charm the senses and fill the mind with delight and astonishment. It was on this very spot that, centuries before, after days of toil and disappointed hopes, Pizarro saw for the first time the vast expanse of the beauteous Pacific. Low down beneath me, like a fairy isle reposing on the waters, on whose blue and glassy surface it stood out, reflected in all its loveliness, lay the graceful little peninsula on which stands the town of Panama. Cultivated lands on

both sides of the way, which marked my progress as I descended from the heights, proclaimed my near approach to the abode of man. Groups of cottages, with pretty little gardens attached, soon came into view. Then I encountered gangs of prisoners under the custody of their guards, busily employed in repairing the highroad; and soon after a sort of *boulevards* through which I passed announced my entrance into the city of Panama. The streets, as I passed along, appeared to be composed of houses of a very antiquated construction; in many instances shattered and displaced by the numerous earthquakes that visit the locality. The shops displayed every possible variety of French goods, and trades of all denominations seemed in a thriving condition; the bustle and business-like appearance of the town being much increased by droves of heavily-laden mules continually passing up and down the streets. After a while I reached an hotel, kept by a German, a lame man, and where everything is conducted after the American fashion.

I obtained a commodious sleeping apartment, taking my meals at the general *table*

d'hôte, the breakfast, as usual, being laid at a certain hour in the morning, and remaining till mid-day, for the benefit of the inmates, who dropped in as inclination or convenience suggested. The display of fish and shell-fish was prodigious, but particularly the latter; every variety of it which I ever saw in my life was, I believe, here congregated, including some extraordinary rock oysters, of a green colour, and reckoned very delicious. I made a frugal breakfast, and was not tempted to indulge much in these luxuries; which I found afterwards was greatly to my advantage, for most of the new arrivals, having partaken of them to a very great extent, found themselves half poisoned, and were for some time exceedingly ill. I fell in here with a friend in the American Commodore, who kindly favoured me with much of his company, and no end of long yarns. We sallied forth together in order to have a look at the town. The grand Plaza is surrounded by many large buildings, amongst which, from its size and importance, the cathedral takes the lead; all, however, being in a sad state of dilapidation, having large rents in every direction, from

the incessant shocks of earthquakes to which the place is subject. The cathedral, which is externally a noble and imposing pile, has been from this cause greatly dismembered and deprived of many of its ornaments and decorations. As I ascended to the entrance by a flight of broken steps, a picturesque group of friars in close conversation gave great character to its monastic porch. The interior of the building is as much disfigured as the outside, but enough remains of its former magnificence to testify to its rich and splendid effect in its palmy days.

On the opposite side of the Plaza, a row of large and conspicuous houses occupied the ground, whose balconies of carved wood and painted green, after the Peruvian fashion, afford an opportunity for the scrutinizing gaze of some dark-eyed senorita or many a lounging gallant, as he idly puffs his aromatic cigar. All at once we noticed the painted sign of a Scotch watchmaker; and recollecting our old friend, Sam Slick, we made bold to enter, and introduced ourselves to Mr. M'Pherson, a gentleman who gave sufficient indications of the country of his birth in as fine a North

British brogue as ever I heard. In the course of conversation he detailed to us an anecdote which showed him, for once in his life, to have been deficient of that caution which is so characteristic of his race. The biter had been bitten, as the following story will prove:—

An old Scotch carpenter who resided at Panama, and occasionally did work for the said Mr. M'Pherson, took him into his confidence, and told him how that twenty years before, he had belonged to a pirate vessel, which was at that time a terror on the high seas. After a successful cruise and a capture of several richly-laden Spanish vessels which they pillaged after they had destroyed the crews, they made for one of the remote islands of the Archipelago, where they hastily deposited their ill-gotten treasure in a cavern, piling up stones to conceal the entrance. Just as they were engaged in this operation, a British frigate appeared in sight and bore down upon them. They slipped their cable and made off, when a chase commenced, and in a very short time it was evident that the British ship was gaining on the pirate. Every exertion was made to improve her

sailing qualities, and a host of articles which could be spared were thrown overboard in order to lighten her. Notwithstanding all this, her pursuer made considerable advances upon her, and soon began to open a running fire. The captain of the pirates finding that escape was hopeless, determined to resort to stratagem to attain his object. He accordingly sent a boat's crew, amongst whom was the carpenter, to board the man-of-war, and to inform her sailors that their own vessel was a privateer, sailing under the Buenos Ayres flag, and now in the act of cruising after a rich Brazilian. The carpenter was no sooner on board than he stated the plain facts of the case, telling them that they were, indeed, pirates who infested the seas, to murder the ships' crews and plunder their vessels; but that he himself was amongst them very much against his will, having been taken from on board a vessel which had fallen into the hands of his present comrades, who only spared his life on condition that he should render them his services in the way of his handicraft. The information thus clandestinely conveyed, was immediately acted upon. A signal was made for

the pirates' vessel to surrender, but instead of complying, she filled every stitch of canvas, and her guns having been thrown overboard, she was fast making away, when a broadside from the frigate turned her completely over on her beam-ends. She very soon righted; but in a very short space of time foundered, before assistance could reach her. The boat's crew were taken by their captors to Jamaica; there tried, condemned, and hanged, the carpenter alone being acquitted, on the plea of his having been forced to join them to save his life. This man, owing to adverse circumstances, was prevented for a space of twenty years from visiting again the shores of the Pacific.

At length, the wished-for opportunity arrived; he worked his passage out to the New World with the secret of vast treasure being concealed there within his breast, and anxious to avail himself of the knowledge which he knew was possessed by no one but himself. At Panama he commenced an intimacy with M'Pherson, to whom, as a countryman, he divulged his secret. His too credulous friend, lured with the hope of gain, greedily swallowed the bait, and

eagerly offered to devote his hard-earned savings in America towards the purchase of a schooner. The sum of 2,000 dollars which he had at command, not appearing adequate for the purpose, it was agreed to take a third party in the affair; and one of the leading and most affluent merchants in the city having been appealed to, he acquiesced in the proposal with the greatest delight. Preliminaries being now settled, a schooner was purchased, and soon furnished with every requisite. The parties were so sanguine as regards the promised treasure, which the plausible description of the carpenter had pictured forth in such vivid terms, that they began to fancy it already within their reach, and actually formed plans for disposing of it to the best advantage; so sure were they of success, and jealous lest any one else should participate in their good fortune, that they refused to admit into the benefits of their scheme many monied persons who were desirous of joining them. Having, therefore, manned their schooner with a small crew, they took their places on board and set sail, whilst a vast concourse of anxious spectators looked on with envy and wonder. After a

tedious voyage of three weeks, this hopeful batch of adventurers at last reached a desolate and dismal-looking island amongst the Archipelago of the Southern Ocean. Entering a small bay, they were told by the carpenter that they had arrived at the goal of all their hopes and wishes, and in a very short time he would point out to them the spot where lay buried the prize of which they were in search. Eager to get on shore, the whole party simultaneously left the ship, the anchor having been carelessly dropped without sounding, or any of the usual and necessary precautions. Then, under the conduct of their leader they followed on in right good earnest, mounting and descending steep precipices, crossing deep chasms, and overcoming every difficulty of the way; carried on, as they were, by the excitement and the hope of gain.

They had scarcely recovered from the fatigues of their long march, and were yet puffing for want of breath, when they commenced their work upon the soil—digging, hammering, and removing large stones, till they were quite overcome by the heat and exhaustion. But still they slaved on, taking little notice of a terrific storm which had

been gathering for some time, and now burst with fury over their heads. Seeking a temporary shelter, they awaited with impatience the time when they might again be able to resume their labours. When the weather permitted, they set to work afresh, and after many hours' incessant toil, with no seeming reward for their arduous efforts, their tired frames began to yield to the long-continued call upon their energies, and nature began to assert her need of rest and nourishment.

Then for the first time they thought about their little vessel they had left behind them in the bay, a prey to the fury of the wind and the waves. One of their party was immediately despatched to procure the necessaries of life; and after some time returned, panting and out of breath, with the alarming intelligence that the schooner was nowhere to be seen, having probably dragged her anchor, and drifted out to sea. At this announcement, a general rush was made for the shore. Every promontory and rise were gained, whence there might be a possibility of getting a glimpse of the missing bark. But a general haziness, which darkened the atmosphere, considerably curtailed the range

of vision, and not a speck in the wide ocean seemed to pronounce encouragement to the intent and anxious gaze of these forlorn adventurers.

They now began to be awake to the perils of their situation, and with eyes and hands upraised to heaven in utter despair, they felt themselves abandoned on an island of rocks, partly covered with guano, where their only supply of water was that which fell from the heavens, and reposed in the holes and cavities of the ground, and a few sickly plants and a little stunted brushwood and stumps afforded their only chance of fuel. After many upbraidings, reproaches, and disputes, they found they were compelled mutually to assist each other in concerting measures to alleviate their present necessities. A large cavern was converted into a temporary domicile, and a good supply of shell-fish having been brought together, a fire was kindled; and the little party having made a hearty meal, and enjoyed some sound repose, on the following day felt in better spirits; and though surrounded by every discomfort and privation, yet clung with that tenacity which the lust of avarice so usually

produces—to the hope of speedy riches which originally buoyed them up. With death staring them in the face, they renewed their exertions in every direction, in the prospect of alighting upon the anticipated treasure, but as unsuccessfully as before. Instead of exercising their faculties to devise some mode of extricating themselves from the present difficulties, and using all their energies for the attainment of that one object, these misguided men went on exhausting their strength in the fruitless search after that which, if found, would be of less value to them than a crust of bread under the circumstances in which they found themselves placed.

Day after day thus passed away, their strength and courage failing, the hope of success even beginning at last to relax its hold upon their minds, and most of the party suffering severely from indisposition, owing to the nature of the food they had been necessitated to take. Various plans and stratagems were set on foot for the purpose of entrapping the birds which occasionally flew about over the island. At first these succeeded partially, but after a time

the birds became so estranged that they would not suffer themselves to be caught, and shell-fish became again the only resource of the poor unhappy treasure-seekers. A succession of hot days had so far evaporated the moisture around, that none of the natural reservoirs contained the supply of water they originally afforded. Hunger and thirst began to tell upon the famished and worn-out frames of these once hardy seamen; suffering and despair were written upon every countenance. The daily watcher, posted upon some bleak peak, with open mouth and far-stretched vision, gazed in sorrowful silence on the distant waves, and looked in vain for the slightest indication of some passing whaler. Ever and anon, he returned to his comrades to repeat once more his sad, sad tale. The little group, once so joyous and full of life, were now struck dumb with terror and amazement. The carpenter, the leader of the band, with cadaverous look,—at one time pensive and wrapt in thought,—at another, wild and distracted, sat apart, a melancholy picture—his hands upon his brow, and his head downcast in moody silence. Perched on a little rock

above, might be seen his friend, the wily Scot, gnawing with impatience his finger-nails, now sweeping with his keen gaze the broad expanse of the horizon, then regarding his mates with inquiring looks, as he chewed with rage the last remnant of his tobacco, which had been made for some time past to serve his wants. There lay the opulent merchant, writhing on the sand in the agony of pain, without even one friendly hand to supply his wants or assuage the fever that was fast consuming him —a helpless beggar, without even a drop of water to relieve his thirst, whilst all the while his richly-stored Argosies ploughed the seas, and the fame of his wealth had spread to every land. Desirous of dabbling in every enterprise to add still more to his accumulated gains, he had now fairly overreached himself; and though possessed of every good, would willingly have exchanged his lot with the meanest of his servants. The black cook, with bleached cheek and bleared eyes, was kindling a fire, stopping every now and then to wipe away the scalding tear that furrowed his cheek.

A fresh supply of fish had just been brought him by the boy who was lazily

looking on, whilst preparations were being made for the frugal meal, when all of a sudden a scream was heard, and the Scotchman was seen laughing loud like a maniac, and, pointing to the horizon, he fell like a dead man on the ground. All started with dismay, even the sick opened their sunken eyes to learn the cause of all the commotion. The answer was, that poor M'Pherson had breathed his last, and the scene resumed its wonted aspect.

Now Scotchy, in his fall, had rolled with the head and face into the midst of the cold and slimy fishes, which had the effect of bringing him at once to his senses. Jumping on his feet, he asked what was the matter, rubbing his eyes and appearing to have just awaked from a dream; then, looking with all eagerness in the direction of the sea, he cried, with a great deal of fervour and gesticulation, "Yes!—no!" and, after a slight pause, "Yes! hurrah, hurrah, boys, we are saved; a sail, a sail!" This little word, like an electric shock, seemed to run through every vein. The feeble, melancholy, and the wild, all started up at once, and gazing with outstretched necks, shouted out

together, "A sail! a sail!" then sank into each others' embrace and wept like children. The whole party then fell upon their knees, and poured out their hearts in gratitude to Him who had thus responded to their repeated cries to Him for deliverance. All was life and bustle in a moment. The sick and the prostrate were now cheered by the prospect of speedy succour, and the more able-bodied were dancing about with joy, as that little speck on the horizon, where all their hopes were centred, grew plainer and plainer to the sight. A signal was hoisted, and, after some anxious delay, was seen from the vessel in the bay. They fired a gun of recognition, and great was the delight to the spectators on shore to watch the gradual approach of the welcome ship which was to bear them from the Pirate's Isle.

Thus ended this unsuccessful enterprise. What became of the enthusiastic author of it I was not able to learn, nor whether the rich merchant was still plodding on in the pursuit of gain, and still ready to embark in any adventure which seemed to promise a sudden increase to the wealth he had already amassed. As regards the third party in the

trio—the once sanguine Scotchman, now wise by experience; there he was to tell the tale, the interest of which was much heightened by his detailed and happy mode of telling it.

My old friend the Commodore, who heard the story, added, in his strange way, "Well, I guess you had tarnation fare of it; almost as bad as when I lost myself in the back states, and had to live on alligator soup for a month."

This was rather too much for our gravity; we all laughed outright, the Commodore himself chiming in most heartily. We then took leave of Mr. M'Pherson, thanking him for the entertainment he had afforded us, and with many congratulations on his happy escape from the dangers he had met with on the Pirate's Isle.

We now visited the landing-place, which is open to the sea, and under cover, affording good accommodation for a market which is held there, where meat, fish, vegetables, and fruits are displayed in great abundance. The population of Panama consists of whites, blacks, mulattoes, Choloes, and Indians. The showy ear-rings, crosses, trinkets of gold, and other ornaments worn here, even by the common people, bespeak a certain

degree of affluence and comfort. During my stay here I witnessed a tornado—one of those extraordinary phenomena of nature which comes on and passes away with a suddenness truly surprising. The water was perfectly smooth, and it appeared that scarcely a breath of air was stirring. At a short distance from the land a number of sailing boats were moored, in which the sailors were either fast asleep, or lazily exerting themselves in some trivial employment. All at once the utmost activity began to prevail amongst them. I watched them slipping their cables, as if desirous of getting away from shore as fast as possible. In another instant a terrific whirlwind came on with the most fearful violence, shivering to pieces two or three small boats, which were untenanted, and not loose from their moorings. The sea rose to a great height, foaming with tremendous fury, whilst on shore clouds of dust were thrown into the air and whirled about in gigantic columns of fifty or a hundred feet high. Presently everything as quickly subsided to its wonted quiet, and the bay presented the same scene as usual. The fortifications, which I afterwards visited,

from their great extent and the solidity of their construction, show what importance was attached by the Spaniards to the city of Panama,—the key, as it were, to their vast possessions in this part of the world. There are still remaining between twenty and thirty of those beautiful brass guns, exquisitely decorated with every species of elaborate ornament, and for which the Spaniards formerly were so justly famed. Since their expulsion from these territories, the fort has been entirely neglected, and many parts of it have now fallen into the sea, and disappeared altogether. The coast on both sides of the little tongue of land on which the town is situated, takes the form of two semicircular bays, which are beautifully wooded. Large quantities of gold, it is stated, have been found there, at the mouths of several rivers that empty themselves into the Pacific. The district of Panama is celebrated for its pearls, which are found there in great abundance; and the town itself has acquired a deserved renown for a manufacture of very fine gold chains, of most exquisite workmanship.

Being desirous of leaving by the Pacific

Mail Steamer for Callao, on the following morning, I returned early to my hotel, and made every necessary arrangement; and on the following day I embarked in a canoe, which contained just room enough for myself and boatman. I am indebted to him for having narrowly escaped being maimed for life. I was sitting carelessly in the canoe, letting my hand float upon the water as it glided along, when he warned me to withdraw it, telling me that a sailor, only a few days before, had had his hand bitten off by a shark. Since then I have been assured that this, as well as many other parts of the Pacific Ocean, completely swarm with these rapacious creatures, and that many persons become incautiously the victims of their voracity. The numerous islands of every size, with which the water is dotted, produced, as I sailed along, a most enchanting picture; many were in clusters of twos and threes, others standing apart, but all covered with brushwood, cultivated ground, and luxuriant vegetation. A single dwelling upon some of them bespoke the solitary residence of some family in the enjoyment of the delights of so romantic a seclusion. Whilst

regarding with attention and interest this agreeable scene, and letting my eye wander over the broad expanse of the blue Pacific, I found I had gained the steamer, around which was assembled a fiotilla of boats, the air resounding with a hundred voices. Trunks, boxes, and packages were in process of being passed along the deck, and here and there stood in piles, obstructing free ingress and egress. The officers of the ship were engaged in escorting ladies and families to the saloon. The stewards were running about in all directions, and in the endeavour to do all for which their services were put in requisition, failed to give satisfaction to anybody. Deck passengers and negro servants, both male and female, fill every corner. The steam is up. Presently the order for all strangers to leave the ship is given, and the crowd which was before almost impassable, gradually diminishes. The little fleet of boats fall off in the rear. Shouts and loud adieus rend the air, amidst the waving of hats and handkerchiefs. As our speed increases, each individual of the living mass on board these little boats is lost to view, and discernible only by the occa-

sional waving of a handkerchief by some fair hand. When finally out of sight, the arrangements on board our steamer began to assume some form, and everything fell into its usual current.

Our *belle assemblée* consisted of rather a heterogeneous company of persons, whom the dinner-hour brought into close contact, and laid the foundation of many an agreeable acquaintance. A very good-looking and interesting woman, surrounded by a brood of little ones, just like herself in miniature, graced a portion of the table, with two servants in attendance. This lady, I was informed, was the wife of a noted cock-fighter and better at Lima, who had accumulated immense wealth from a course of continual success in such pursuits. A gentleman who sat near me, an excellent linguist, and possessed of extraordinary conversational powers, had been the partner of a well-known and talented man, the editor of one of the leading papers, who had been waylaid and shot dead in the open day by some one who had felt offended at his strictures. Another gentleman, a fine old military man in half uniform, with a venerable grey head and wrinkled

brow, was one of the veterans who had fought with General Saint Martin, and disputed every inch of his native soil till he had completely driven away the fierce invaders. Then there was a French priest, a man of high preferment and finished education, on his return from Rome to Valparaiso, where he was chief of a Roman Catholic College, and much esteemed. This person was a great scrutinizer of persons and things, and often made me his confidant and the depositary of his caustic remarks.

Several ladies, who were going to visit their friends at Lima, were now, for the first time in their lives, aboard a steamer, the innocence of whose remarks, and continual run of questions, was truly amusing. Some young gentlemen, who seemed determined on frolic and mischief, had observed a friend of theirs retire to his cabin, near the grand saloon. Imagining him to be suffering from sea-sickness, they disguised themselves in large cloaks, with which they quite covered their heads, and placing themselves at the door of the cabin, they commenced reciting the service for the dead, with the appropriate responses; and then concluded by singing a

requiem—all which was regarded with the utmost horror by the legitimate divines who happened to be on board.

I once more met my old friend the American Consul, with his wife and daughters, and laughed heartily over the recollection of our past misfortunes in crossing the Isthmus. There were also an Italian captain, a Genoese, on his way to Lima, to interest his numerous and wealthy countrymen in that city upon the regeneration of Italy; a young cashier belonging to a great firm in the same place, who gave himself as many airs as if he had been the first banker in Europe; and a doctor, who, if he bled as many patients as he did bottles of wine during the course of our voyage, must have had no cause to complain of his practice. In one corner sat an elderly gentleman and maiden lady, brother and sister, surrounded by parrots, a monkey, two cats, and three ugly little dogs, all of whom they alternately kissed and hugged. Two young cadets of sixteen, in uniform, who, without a figure of speech, may be said to have smoked themselves away—for they were scarcely perceptible behind the volumes of smoke they emitted,—got into disgrace

with these worthy people. One of these young sparks threw down, on the sly, a lighted cigar upon the monkey, who had been watching him. The animal seized it, and put the lighted end of it into his mouth; then screamed, chattered, and cried—jumped upon the head of the old lady, who was so frightened that she fainted away; then upon that of the old man, from which he fell to the ground with the old gentleman's wig firmly held between his jaws. Besides these, there was a party of fashionably-dressed men, who made it a practice, I understood, to go and return by this boat, forming a bank, and introducing a variety of games, such as Monte, Pharo, &c., in the course of which large heaps of doubloons were soon transferred to their own coffers.

It is astonishing how infatuated the South Americans are on the subject of gaming, in any shape. It should be evident to them that persons such as these, who live—and live sumptuously—on the proceeds of their play, without any other ostensible means of livelihood, must be nothing else than a set of sharpers; and yet, because they are gentlemanly robbers, they are not only tolerated,

but they succeed in inducing many to embark in their speculations. A man was pointed out to me, who came on board with 120 ounces, all of which he lost, besides his watch and chain; and he had at last to borrow an ounce to enable him to leave the ship. This system of gambling on board passenger vessels should be strictly prohibited. Wherever this is not the case, it is a disgrace to any nation that sanctions or tolerates it.

As the evening drew on, the breeze freshened, and the motion of the ship became more sensibly felt. Those who had braved it hitherto now began to feel rather queer, and found some excuse for retiring to rest. A few hardy veterans, whose constitution nothing could shake, assembled around a table, to smoke or sip their grog, till all was dark. These I soon left to their enjoyment, till one after another fell from his perch, intoxicated, or fast asleep.

Early next morning, whilst still in bed, I felt that the steam had been turned off, and heard various voices from boats. This assured me of our arrival at Buenaventura; but on looking through my glass, and finding, from the haziness of the morning, that no-

thing was to be seen, I turned in again to my couch and went to sleep. When at last I got up, I hastened on deck. The sun was shining with all the splendour of a Southern hemisphere. The shore was plainly visible, with the silver sand spread like the surface of a mirror, except where hundreds of sand-hills, formed into rows, had all the appearance of an encampment.* Sometimes a valley or tract of rich land was seen, watered by some friendly stream; and flowers, fruits, and vegetation flourished with abundant fertility; whilst high in the heavens, though indistinctly marked, and broken by many a cloud, might be traced the line of the Cordilleran Range.

Taking my walk along the decks, I was noticing the numerous deck passengers, each of whom had made his bed in some convenient spot, snug and comfortable, over the gratings, when I was saluted by two young

* These plains of sand, in the deserts of the South, are continually changing their forms. On some days, the sand is piled up into huge mountains; at other times it resembles a series of hillocks; then it presents the appearance of a sea of waves, or a broad extended plain, as smooth as glass.

Spaniards from the mother country, with all the gravity peculiar to that nation. I found them to be men of intelligence and gentlemanly address, though deck passengers, and meanly attired. I had the opportunity of procuring for them many favours on board, for which they expressed their gratitude. They told me that they were going to Guayaquil to purchase a quantity of the straw hats for which that place is famous, to dispose of at Lima, Bolivia, Chili, and Buenos Ayres, at an enormous price, some of these hats fetching so much as six ounces or doubloons a-piece. They said that they would be proud if I would allow them to execute any commands from me, in making any purchase of cigars, hats, or a beautiful sort of straw hammock worked by the Indians, and peculiar to the country; all which, they told me, they could procure for me at a cheaper rate than I myself could as a stranger. I thanked them for their kind offer, and gave them some few commissions.

The pilot on board the vessel was a fine-looking South American, and spoke with ease the English language. He interested me very much with an account of a famous and

daring enterprise in which he had been engaged under Earl Dundonald, then Lord Cochrane, under whose flag he had served in the cutting-out of the Spanish frigate Esmeralda, from under the round batteries of Callao. The enthusiasm with which he told the story, and the freshness with which each event in his recollection seemed to be clothed, made it all appear as of recent date, instead of, as was the case, a matter of long-past history.

We were now fast approaching the land, as our course lay towards the entrance of the great river of Guayaquil. Avoiding the sandbanks and shallows of the bar, we enter the mouth of the river, on which large pieces of timber are to be seen stranded, whilst others are floating on the waters, making their way to the sea. The enormous breadth of the river becomes gradually less, and soon nothing is to be seen from the water's edge to the farthest limit to which the eye could reach, but one great mass of dense wood. Numerous birds, disturbed from their solitudes, scream and dart by us as we slowly proceed against the stream; and shoals of fish, frightened by the noise of the

vessel, plunge and disappear beneath the hurrying tide. The current becomes stronger as we advance, and the steamer is obliged to seek the shelter of the nearest shore. Large trees bathed by the waters spread their ponderous branches in all directions; and where the mud banks are laid bare by the receding tide, the alligator, stretched asleep upon the shore, lies basking in the sun's scorching heat, nor quits his slimy bed till disturbed by the rifle's sharp report, he retires wounded from the scene, and is soon lost in the depths beneath. The giant oak here rears his stately head; and the cedar, mahogany, and banyan—the latter a forest of woody bowers in itself, vie with each other in all their majesty of luxuriant growth. As we advance, several tributary streams, overshadowed by festoons of foliage, open a long vista along the surface of their placid waters; and occasionally where there was a slight clearage, fields of waving maize or cane caught the sight, together with a few huts, where the sunburnt children of the soil enjoyed their pastime in the cooling breeze. Occasionally in some creek sturdy Indians might be seen, after the labour of the day, selecting from the

fruits of their toil, which they had just landed from the watery flood. Large tracts of cultivated land and good houses became visible; and passing boats, schooners, and canoes, announced our proximity to the city of Guayaquil.

This port belonging to the Republic of Ecuador, of which Quito is the capital, presents from the river a pleasing and tropical appearance. Behind a quay or esplanade, where trees and seats afford shelter and repose, stands the town, with its large galleried houses and variegated awnings to protect the inhabitants from the excessive heat of the mid-day sun. Shops, *cafés*, and stores, form the basement, which is thronged with visitors, who come to while away a vacant hour, or deal in the various kinds of merchandise there displayed. At a short distance from the shore a fleet of schooners is anchored, and coasters and rafts line the roads, whilst a number of small boats and canoes stud the beach in all directions. This being the destination of the American Consul and his family, on their way to Quito, myself and a few friends escorted them on shore. As they objected to go to the common *posada*, the only accom-

modation I was able to procure for them was a badly-furnished apartment, where, however, by the kindness of the Captain of our steamer, the *Nueva Granada*, they were supplied with a good stock of provisions, as the eatables were cooked on board, and sent to them. I now left these unfortunate people, who had begun to find the inconvenience of being in a foreign country without being able to speak a word of the language, and started on an exploring expedition by myself. I was soon accosted by two well-dressed gentlemen, who saluted me in the most respectful manner. I was quite at a loss to know who my friends were, when they recalled to my recollection some little favour I had conferred on them on board the ship. I regarded them with astonishment when I recognised my Spanish acquaintances, now completely metamorphosed, and dressed in the very height of fashion. These grateful fellows could not thank me sufficiently for what I had done. They made the best return they could in assisting me in various purchases I was making, and procured for me many articles at a much cheaper rate and

of a better description than I could possibly have procured myself. The evening being advanced, and feeling rather tired, I entered one of the best *cafés* to seek some refreshment. The waiter was at my elbow almost before I had time to call him, and placed down before me an ice, some chocolate, sweet cakes, and preserves. I looked at him with surprise. He bowed and withdrew. Imagining this to be the custom of the country, I took no further notice, but helped myself freely to that which pleased my fancy. After remaining some time, I called the waiter, and demanded of him how much I had to pay. He informed me that all I had taken was already paid for, as well as anything else I might choose to order. I regarded the fellow with astonishment, thinking he must have been mad. Still wishing to settle my bill, with my purse in hand, I made another attempt to ascertain the amount of it. To all my inquiries he was now mute, and taking the things away, he bowed and retired.

On my way to the beach I turned over this affair again in my mind, and the only solution of it which I could give was, that my Spanish

friends had seen me enter the *café*, and in this delicate manner had manifested their gratitude.

As I approached the water's edge, in order to procure a boat to take me on board, I found the place crowded by a perfect galaxy of all the beauty of the town, together with a host of black female servants, all busily enjoying the delights of sea bathing. At first I thought of delaying my departure a little till they had finished their pastime; but, as I found that the nymphs took little or no notice of me, I put a bold face on it, hired a boat, and made a sally into the midst of them. I soon gained the vessel, and passed the night on board. It was intolerably hot, and the number of musquitoes and other tormentors made the place a regular *Inferno*. Soon after daybreak the steam was up, and we were ploughing our way through the waters of Guayaquil. I forgot to mention that the pine apples there are without exception the finest I ever beheld, many of them weighing five or six pounds each, and they are as abundant as they are remarkable. Rafts came alongside containing pyramids of them, and they were sold at about the rate of one *Madio*,

(or 3d. of English money,) each. Every person on board was quickly supplied with a large stock. The sailors and cabin servant, (although the practice was strongly prohibited,) filled up every hole and corner where they could conveniently store them away; and in a very few days run of the steamer there was a ready sale for them at the rate of two dollars each at Valparaiso and Chili. Our boatswain, a very intelligent and active seaman, had like the rest, completely filled his berth when off his watch, and afterwards went to sleep, during which he was stung by some insect, and in a very few minutes the poor fellow was like a mad person and dancing about with pain. His mates, to relieve him, applied every remedy they could think of, but to no avail. His arm became swollen from one end to the other, and was in the highest state of inflammation. The pain was so acute that the poor man cried like a child, and his sufferings were so truly heartrending, that it was determined to leave him at the next port, where he would be put under the care of experienced persons, and derive the benefit of the very best medical advice. The next day being the anniversary of the foundation of the

Chilian Republic, the Purser, who was a son of that nation, did all the honours, and treated the whole table to champagne. Various patriotic toasts were given and ably responded to, and after some good songs, the party broke up on the very best terms of friendship. The evening of the day being fine, and a couple of guitars having been procured, some of the dancers of the country, known by the name of *Baylarcetos*, were introduced.

These dances are particularly graceful, and are managed something after this manner. The two guitarists place themselves in a conspicuous position, surrounded by the spectators of the amusement, a vacancy in the centre being left free for the dancers. A lady and gentleman are selected, who stand opposite to each other, both holding a white handkerchief in the right hand. Verses are then sung by the party, and generally of their own composition, relative to the dancers or the company present. The dancers advance towards each other and then retire, waving their handkerchiefs gracefully in the air; this is often repeated, all joining in chorus, and adding the clapping of hands to the beat of the music. The dancers become ex-

cited and throw themselves into extravagant attitudes; and when one set is fatigued, they are succeeded by others, and so on during the whole course of the night. In this way the hours were agreeably beguiled, and entertainment was found for those who had nothing else to amuse them. My old friend the American Commodore, since he had lost the society of the Consul, and particularly of his pretty and agreeable daughters, appeared like a fish out of water. Not being able to speak Spanish, he used to say that he considered himself very unlucky in not being able to talk to the "girls," and therefore was obliged to be content with ogling them. As a resource under the circumstances he courted my society; and in the course of our conversation together, which turned upon many subjects, the discipline of the navy was at last started, and proved a very fruitful topic. He gave me chapter and verse to prove the superiority of his own over all others. A Captain was walking the deck of his vessel, when, observing a man skulking aloft, he hallooed to him, "What the devil are you after, sir? Come down." The man in his hurry and fright, slipped, and came right down upon

the deck the shortest way, severely knocking the Captain about the head and shoulders in his fall, without hurting himself in the least. For this he was arrested and brought to a trial, charged with striking a superior officer. The prisoner pleaded in extenuation, that he did but obey orders. The Captain, who had now recovered, smiled at his adroit defence, and confessed that he had ordered him down. Upon this the man was honorably acquitted, and moreover, received the compliments of the court for prompt execution of orders. I could not help laughing, and remarked to my friend that to visit accidents with the outward form and solemnities of a trial, seemed to my way of thinking very unsatisfactory. His opinion was that no disobeyal of order, even by accident, could be tolerated under any circumstances whatever, and this was a knock-down argument. After this I thought that the Commodore had mixed his grog rather too strong, and so, wishing him a good night, I retired to rest.

CHAPTER III.

Callao—San Lorenzo—City of the Kings—Its principal features—Bull fight—Account of a dangerous encounter with robbers in Mexico, several years before—Festival of Santa Rosa, at Lima—Chorillas—Shooting on the mountains—Dizzy elevation—Ruins of the Incas—Monasteries—Pisco.

AFTER the events detailed in the last chapter, nothing of any importance occurred till we came within sight of the Peruvian coast. Off Payta, a large sailing boat was seen making towards us with crowded sail, having on board various packages and several new passengers. The port itself appeared at too great a distance for anything to be discernible but a few houses. Late in the evening many other ports were passed, but nothing was seen of them. At last, a forest of masts,

backed by the island of San Lorenzo, marked the port of Callao. This port, from its admirable situation and vast capabilities, shows the great penetration of its founder, the conqueror Pizarro, who made it to be the maritime key to his great city, *de los Reyes*, (Lima, city of the kings.) There is a tradition that the island of San Lorenzo originally joined the main-land, forming a peninsula, on which stood the ancient town of Callao, or San Lorenzo (I forget which), with its numerous churches, fortifications, and houses, together with an extensive harbour for shipping. During a tremendous earthquake, the greater part of this peninsula was engulphed beneath the sea, leaving where once stood a fair city with its busy inhabitants, nothing to mark the spot in the vast expanse of waters which covered it. Separated from its mother earth, the lovely isle of San Lorenzo stands now at a distance of between two and three miles from the main-land, and is not inhabited—or if so, merely at stated seasons of the year, by a few fishermen who build there temporary huts for the pursuit of their avocation. It is stated that the island seaward is infested by hundreds of

sea-horses of an enormous size. This I can quite believe, having seen several of them at a small watering-place, some twenty miles farther along the coast. Parties of gentlemen, chiefly officers belonging to the British fleet engaged on the station in the Pacific, hunt these animals, whose tusks are of great value and form an important article of commerce. Several boats are manned, the sportsmen being armed with rifles and boarding-pikes, and the parties start in pursuit of these animals, which are seen basking in hundreds on the sand or swimming around the shore. No sooner are a few shots fired than they plunge into the water, and attack the boats, in many cases placing their paws upon them and endeavouring to seize upon the inmates, until repulsed by the boarding-hooks and pikes. The slaughter of some of them on these occasions is very great, though the sport is not unattended with danger. By reason of its seaward position, the island forms an excellent harbour for Callao. It affords a safe shelter from the winds, and a breakwater to the ocean, and within its precincts a large amount of shipping rides in safety. Two large round batteries command

the port, where are mounted some of those beautiful brass guns peculiar to the Spaniards. There are several landings, one being especially devoted to the boats belonging to vessels of war. The good people of Callao are full of strange stories as regards their being able to see on clear days beneath the waters the ruins of the city which so tragically disappeared.

The present town chiefly faces the sea, and much resembles in appearance a seafaring town in England. There are slop shops in every variety, ship-chandler's stores, and a very great sprinkling of taverns and dancing places for the sailors. As for the ladies, they walk about bedecked with every species of jewellery and finery; and so anxious are they to make all the display they can, that they even carry two or three watches at a time. The dissipation which goes on at this place at night is, I am told, perfectly alarming. I was very much amused by the conduct of sailors from the various ships of war on leave of absence, the instant they got on shore. They were for the most part French or English, and a pretty figure they cut on the horses which they hired, clinging

to them in a very grotesque manner, and howling just as if they were on board a ship. The road from Callao to Lima is about three miles, and perfectly flat. An omnibus runs between the two places several times a-day.

At the period of my being in the country, the commercial world was much engrossed by the subject of a projected railway to unite the towns. Since my visit I understand that so desirable a result has been achieved. The little tract of land between the port and the capital has been the scene of some of the most daring robberies and murders upon record. The ruins of some houses, and a number of dilapidated walls were about midway between the two spots, and here the brigands cautiously awaited the approach of travellers, and either shot at them from behind their ambush, or pounced upon them suddenly and despatched them with their knives. If not killed at once, these unfortunate travellers were invariably severely wounded, and were generally tied hand and foot by these butchers, and left for dead in the road. These deeds were usually perpetrated by men on horseback, who, upon the least alarm, immediately dispersed themselves in all directions, and

baffled all pursuit. Since, however, the establishment of the omnibuses, the road has been so much frequented by travellers—so many at a time, and so well armed, that to a certain extent these acts of violence have been put a stop to. After passing a thickly wooded portion of the journey, the road becomes extremely beautiful, trees planted at equal distances and interspersed with elegant seats, forming a magnificent avenue. On each side are delightful gardens, filled with fruits and flowers, inviting the passer-by to rest awhile, and partake of one of the cool and refreshing beverages with which the country abounds.

Lima, the city of the kings, is surrounded by strong walls, having four principal gates, and numerous towers or bastions, with flanking batteries which command the various approaches. Like many other works constructed by the conquerors of the country, at enormous labour and expense, this massive erection has been allowed to tumble into decay for want of the necessary repairs. The moat or ditch in some places has been filled up by the crumbling wall; and in other parts, where once was heard the cry of war, and

where the dreadful instruments of destruction roared, smiling gardens and peaceful little summer-houses now attract the eye. The streets which form the suburbs of this far-famed city, present no remarkable features. The external appearance of the houses exhibits a plain white façade, with a large massive wooden gateway, and through two or three windows on the ground-floor, strongly barricaded with long perpendicular iron bars, might be seen a suite of rooms elegantly furnished. On passing through the entrance, a large court-yard is entered, around which is found a large assortment of flowers in pots tastefully arranged. The apartments which open upon this *patio*, are generally composed of the principal drawing and ante-rooms, which, seen from the street through the open gateway at night with their brilliantly-lighted chandeliers, produced a most admirable effect. This description will serve for most of the houses in Lima; only the larger houses have a story above, and the external windows are decorated with large carved balconies, almost in every instance painted green. The corners of the streets are chiefly occupied as wine shops, where commodities in chandlery of all

descriptions are sold. I observed that the front rooms of many respectable houses were converted into shops.

The appearance of the grand Plaza is anything but commanding. The Palace of the President, where Pizarro was assassinated by the followers of his companion in arms, the great Almegro, has little to boast of as regards its external aspect. A large gateway which is generally crowded by officers and soldiers, lounging about in all directions, is with the exception of a dirty flag that waves above, the only indication that this is the seat of government. The building presents to the beholder nothing but a long white-washed wall, in which a few windows, high from the ground, look out upon a crazy balcony. On one side, several stalls and mean-looking shops disfigure this edifice, which occupies the greater part of one angle of the square. The opposite angle is occupied by the cathedral, a large building of stone with a tower and belfry, which are upon the whole grand and imposing, though bearing evident marks of the continual earthquakes which frequent the city. The remainder of the square is composed of houses, under

which is a colonnade of shops, on the outside of which the several wares are fantastically arranged. Between the arches of the colonnade stalls may be seen, at which gold embroidery and epaulette makers are hard at work at their trade. Here are also flower-venders, and small *cafés*, tastefully arranged with flower-pots and seats, so as to form little bowers, where may be enjoyed in all their perfection, ices, chocolate, and sweetmeats. In one corner of the square is a large boarding-house upon the American principle, the charge being three dollars a-day, including everything. Here are congregated commercial club-houses and billiard-rooms belonging to the English merchants, as well as the Policia, and other public buildings.

In the centre of the Plaza is a very old and dilapidated fountain, which is generally surrounded by beggars and deformed persons soliciting charity. The principal street leading from this locality is called Calle del Comercio. It is like a little Paris in miniature, from the number of elegantly decorated shops and large *cafés* with which it abounds. There the French milliner is busily employed, surrounded by Parisian fashions. There the

European bootmaker, hatter, or saddler, vie with each other in a rich assortment of their respective goods. The splendour and magnificence of the jeweller, the taste of the confectioner, and the grace of the hair-dresser, are conspicuous on every hand. There is the bazaar to tempt the curious, and the profusion of the Italian warehouse to satisfy every want.* The *café* of the Balla d'Oro is regarded as one of the very best, every accommodation being procurable at a very reasonable charge. This establishment is generally crowded, particularly at night, when the numerous billiard tables with which the rooms are furnished often exhibit very showy play. Near to this street resides a Yankee, who is a livery-stableman, and a very obliging fellow, and lets out horses at the rate of a dollar a day.

The street of *Plateros* (silversmiths) is filled with persons entirely engaged in that handicraft. A tolerable display is made by the large fashionable silver spurs, weighing

* The business of the latter, together with that of the grog shop, is always conducted in Lima by Italians, who are chiefly Genoese, and considered a very wealthy class.

several pounds, together with silver ornaments for horses, church chalices and utensils of various kinds, which are exposed in the windows.

I took up my quarters at decidedly the best hotel in the city—one kept by a Monsieur A. Calle de los Bourgadones. The house is conducted in the genuine French style, and the difficulty of getting apartments is so great that persons have sometimes to wait weeks before they can be accommodated. When I was at last fortunate enough to secure an entrance, I found myself in the society of merchants, officers of the navy, Italian opera singers, clerks, and artists. The table which is kept there is most excellent, and the general affability which French manners engender, soon made us all feel at home.

Amongst the inmates were a number of persons who appeared to live at the house all the year round. They were a set of young men of the most fashionable exterior, who indulged in all the follies and extravagancies of the day, having at their command magnificent horses, beautiful *chères amies*, and everything they could possibly want.

These young men, I was informed, lived entirely by gambling, and in the course of a short season of between two and three months at Chorillas—a small watering place a few miles from Lima—gained sufficient to supply their needs during the whole of the year. This place, which is much resorted to by the *élite* of Lima, is very notorious for these sets of sharpers, who carry gaming to an alarming extent, and aggrandize themselves by the ruin of many respectable families. It was during my residence at this hotel, that I saw for the first time Colonel Visendon, the unfortunate fellow who was afterwards shot in Bolivia, and to whom I shall have to allude in a subsequent part of this work. Besides this person, I made the acquaintance of a little, fat, talkative Englishman, who kept a sort of superior wine store, much frequented by the merchants, captains, and English in general. A fine painting of some railway, which proved a great source of attraction, served as a sign to this concern. This man, who had been in the country for thirty years or more, and had been twice married there, possessed a great stock of local knowledge. I called

upon him several times, and derived from him much sound and useful information.

The ladies of Lima wear an extraordinary costume, called a *Tapada*, which attracted my particular attention. With some the material is black satin, but light brown and various other tints are constantly to be seen. The skirt, which is exceedingly full, is beautifully stretched down at certain distances below the hip, and then allowed to fall gracefully. From the waist upwards it has the appearance of a sack, forming a sort of hood, which is held in such a position that only one eye is seen; the wearer being thus disguised to such a degree that it is almost impossible to recognise her. Mistakes from this cause are continually taking place. Husbands have been known to follow their own wives for the purposes of intrigue. Brothers have failed to discover their own sisters, or lovers their sweethearts, when dressed out in one of these disguises. Married ladies generally possess one, which they put on unknown to their husbands, and then slip out of doors—for what purposes I must leave the dark beauties of Lima to answer for themselves.

The Italian Opera House is much frequented, and the company pretty tolerable. A performance takes place once a week. On other nights, a Spanish tragedy or comedy is enacted, or a little posturing is got up for the amusement of the people of Lima, who are much addicted to this species of entertainment. An Italian adventurer opened a large room, and gave a series of dissolving views, with accompanying music, realizing by his speculation, in a very short time, a very considerable fortune. Two or three American artists, practising the daguerrotype process, were as successful in their line.

During my sojourn in this city, the announcement of an intended bull-fight, to take place at the Teatro de los Toros, on the outskirts of the city, induced me to make an effort to witness this strange exhibition. Carriages of all kinds, from the most superannuated to those but newly built, were put in requisition; and cavalcades of horsemen, together with a vast concourse of pedestrians, habited in their holiday attire, flocked early to the exciting scene. The Theatre of Bull-fights contains a spacious arena, which is enclosed by a strong barrier five feet high,

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around which a clear passage is formed, away from the spectators. Around the circle the seats are then ranged, one above another; and at one part, opposite the entrance, an elegant box is fitted up with flags, garlands, and drapery, together with gaudy cloths of velvet and gold, for the reception of the President and staff. Tier after tier soon becomes densely filled with eager spectators, the lower ones being reserved for the more *élite* of the population of Lima, comprising many a beautiful woman, attended by her favorite cavalier. A division of infantry, headed by their band, march into the arena, and after they have paraded about some time to the cheering sounds of some lively music, the President and his staff appear in their box, and are complimented by the usual honours, and the applause of the multitude. The band then retire to a place allotted to them, the soldiers march within the barriers, and, after a flourish of trumpets, six beautifully-dressed young men, each with a small red flag in his hand, rush into the middle of the arena, and bow to the President. After this, six *cavaliers piqueurs* follow, on richly caparisoned horses, and do the same. The

whole of them then disperse and retire, the horsemen taking up their places, with the six men on foot in advance of them.

There is a second flourish of trumpets; the gates in front of the presidential box are thrown open, and the roar of an infuriated bull echoes along the theatre. The most intense enthusiasm prevails everywhere, and the whole company are on the very tip-toe of expectation. A small, black bull, with short horns, and short, curly hair, rushes headlong into the arena, with his tail erect, and foaming at the nostrils, and makes a stand in centre of the flagmen. These then wave their banners, and do all in their power to enrage him. The infuriated beast looks first at one, then at another, stamps violently upon the ground, and then roars with terrific vehemence; after which, as quick as thought, he rushes at two of the footmen, who have only time to clear the barriers ere the horns of the bull come into contact with their garments. He now makes for one of the horsemen, and in an instant shivers his lance to pieces; then gores the horse under the ribs, who, falling right over on his rider, nearly crushes the unfortunate *piqueur* under

him. In order now to divert the attention of the bull from their helpless comrade, the flagmen and horsemen exhibit a great deal of prowess and daring, and the intrepidity they manifested in their several efforts was beyond all description. The bull, worried by one and the other, followed them for a little space of time, and during this short interval, the fallen man was rescued, and carried away in a most deplorable state. The poor horse, in the agony of his sufferings, endeavoured to rise upon his feet, when the mad bull, catching another sight of him, made several desperate rushes at the dying creature, and having strewed the arena with his entrails, finally tramped upon his victim with rage. The flagmen now advance towards the bull, armed with flags provided with darts at their ends, to which are attached fireworks. When they arrive near him, they turn suddenly off, planting, at the same moment, a dart in his buttocks. This is no sooner done than another, and another, and another flagman goes through the same manœuvre, till the angry beast is literally covered with flags. The fireworks then ignite, covering him with a shower of sparks.

Every now and then an explosion takes place, and the skin appears torn away from the flesh, with the red gore trickling down. Mad with pain, fright, and rage, the infuriated animal now frisks about in all directions, and at last, gasping for breath, comes to a regular stand. Once more the trumpets flourish; the stately *matador* enters in the graceful costume of an Andalusian bull-fighter. He raises his little black bonnet, and bows to the President. His esquire then advances, and offers him the hilts of two Toledan swords, crossed. One is selected, and this handsome Spaniard (for he was a famous bull-fighter from Cadiz) walks up towards his ferocious enemy. All the other flagmen and horsemen retire, and form a group in a distant part of the arena, to watch the encounter.

The bull seems by instinct to know that his end is approaching, and to recognise his destroyer. He keeps his gaze fixed upon him, as he steadily advances, quite on the alert, as he comes up to him, to start away on the instant. They are face to face intently regarding each other, when all at once the animal roars furiously, stamps impatiently on the earth, butts at the air, and scatters about

his gory foam. Then he starts up with the rapidity of lightning, tosses high in the air the red cloth held out by his wily antagonist and tramples it under foot. He then turns and renews his attacks; the adroit and agile bull-fighter stepping aside each time to avoid his sudden rush. All this time the appearance and shouts of the people rend the air, and the uproar of the excited spectators, who are worked up to the greatest pitch of enthusiasm and delight, mingles with the loud bellowing of the fierce beast, who occasionally makes false starts, which are well watched and parried by his active adversary. At last, fearing, as it were, to lose a chance, he rushes on his foe, when his head is immediately enveloped in the red mantle, and the king of the *Matadores*, jumping aside, with uplifted hand plunges his well-tempered steel up to the very hilt in a vulnerable part of the bull's body, a little above the shoulder. The animal now rushes forward, frantic with pain, and giving one long last gasp, falls dead upon the arena.

The whole assembly then rises. The waving of hats and handkerchiefs is universal, and the applause quite overwhelming and

deafening. Wreaths of laurel are thrown to the conqueror, who stands upon his fallen victim and bows to the admiring crowd. Then there is another flourish of trumpets, the military bands strike up in the general tumult, the large gates are thrown open, and four beautiful steeds covered with rich cloths of gold and plumes of waving feathers on their heads, harnessed abreast, and led by their respective grooms, prance gracefully round the circle, after which the dead bull is attached to the harness, and after making the round of the arena, is conveyed away amidst general acclamations. Seven other bulls now entered and went through the like phases of this extraordinary exhibition, after which the enraptured audience withdrew, well satiated with the sight of blood, and the slaughter of unoffending dumb animals. The continual repetition of such a sight was to me painful in the extreme; and I returned to my hotel in disgust at what I had witnessed, and content to have satisfied my curiosity for once and for ever on the matter of bull fights.

Early one morning I determined to visit the market-place, which I found to be in a square connected with the principal Plaza by

a street which joins one of its corners. In this square is situated an old church or monastery, and a number of wooden stalls and sale tenements, with which it is covered, bespeak the manner of its appropriation. Very early in the morning the scene is one of great bustle, lines of butcher's stalls meet the eye, poultry in all its varieties is piled in heaps, and the passer-by is regaled with a sight of fruits, and vegetables, and flowers of every tint and odour in all their beauty and freshness. The general buzz of voices which greets the ear adds life and animation to the busy scene. Many a fashionable interloper, who has come there merely for amusement, looks on with envious eye at some industrious housewife cheerfully performing the duties of her station. There some fat *padre* solicits the donations of every stall, to line his already well-stored scrip, and gives in return his hearty benediction. The display of fish, formed into little heaps upon the ground, exhibits to the stranger such an assortment as he seldom meets with. The mendicants, who assail the visitor upon every hand, are beyond calculation. I was particularly struck by the deformities to which most of them are

subject. There were lepers, palsied persons, and those afflicted with every species of malady, and all these subsisting (and that in a very comfortable manner) entirely upon charity. As I was wandering about in this place, I met with my old friend, a German doctor, with whom I had an adventure many years before in Mexico. We dined together and recapitulated our exploits. The following is the circumstance to which I allude.

Early one morning the diligence from the city of Mexico to the port of Vera Cruz entered the pleasant city of Piroli, passing to its destination along the narrow streets, and attracting the attention of the idlers who were gathered in groups at the doors of their dwellings. The heavy vehicle rolled into the great square where stood the noble cathedral, and passing by the fountain and arcades, which adorned the place, arrived in the vicinity of the Grand Hotel Nacional, and ultimately creaked into the extensive court-yard of that establishment. The passengers alighted, comprising two English gentlemen, officers in present commission—a German doctor with his wife and two little girls, a German and Mexican gentleman

and myself. A Yankee coachman had conducted our little party thus far safe on our journey. In the centre of the court-yard was a jet of water, and round about coaches and carts were standing, and bales were strewn. On some mats littered with provender two troops of horses and mules were making their meal, and seated near at hand, drovers and coachmen were intently discussing their savoury dish—a mess of meat and pumpkins made perfectly red with red peppers. Near the scene two or three brigand-looking fellows stood, carelessly looking on, but keen observers of all that passed, though appearing to be occupied merely in the quiet enjoyment of their cigars. Two flights of stairs on each side of the court-yard led to a wooden gallery which surrounded it. After partaking of an excellent French dinner in the *Salle à manger*, which was entered from this gallery, I retired to my dormitory, which was situated upon the same floor, and soon fell asleep, but was not suffered long to enjoy my repose, for I was soon summoned to appear before the *alcalde;* and with as much haste as I could I accordingly paid a visit to that important

functionary. I found that I was not the only one whose slumbers had been broken in upon for a similar purpose. The *alcalde* graciously informed me that he was anxious to have a personal interview with me, in conjunction with my fellow-travellers, as he never suffered any one to depart from the city without his especial permission. This was a precaution he always observed, in consequence of the numerous robberies which took place upon the road; and he was always desirous of giving travellers the opportunity of furnishing themselves with an escort as the only remedy. He said that if we paid him, he would make the necessary arrangements, and that we should find an escort waiting for us on the outside of the town. We all of us agreed to this stipulation, and, having thanked the *alcalde*, withdrew to our quarters.

At break of day the coach was loaded; we took our seats as before, and were again *en route*. Now, the evening before, I had had a little friendly conversation with our Yankee coachman over a glass of grog and a cigar, when that worthy individual informed me to my comfort of the certainty of our

being waylaid by robbers on the following day. This being the case, I had requested as a favour to be allowed to take my seat with him on the box, as all my friends having determined on a stout resistance in case of attack, I should the better be enabled to give them the alarm when the time should arrive. To this proposal of mine he objected, on the ground that, but a short time previously, the coachman and a gentleman who was seated by his side had received a volley at the same instant, and had been both shot dead. He told me that the moment that the robbers ordered him to pull up his horses he must immediately comply or meet with a certain death, giving me to understand that his part must be strictly neuter, even if murder should be committed. Many of these desperadoes, he informed me, he knew by sight, some of them as well dressed gentlemen as any in the capital. They never molested him, and he, on his side, dared not to take any notice of them. Some few of them, with whom he came into constant contact, occasionally nodded to him, but, for his part, he thought it best to steer clear of their acquaintance, and for his own personal

safety, on no account to appear to thwart them in their evil designs. However, he said that the instant he saw any of them, he would lash his whip against the side of the coach, and thus give us warning of their approach. As we entered the coach the dawn was breaking, and a slight fog prevented us from seeing distinctly the forms of objects as we passed along. The heavy and ponderous gate of the city slammed behind us, and once in the open country we rattled fast along the road. A sound night's rest, the good fare which "mine host" had provided for our hasty meal, and the comforts of our toilet ere we started, mantled our brows with the smile of content. We jogged along in the very best of spirits; many a joke passed round, and we all recounted our little adventures in the course of our rambles about the town we were now leaving.

In the midst of all our merriment the coach suddenly stops, and a number of horsemen are to be seen galloping about in all directions. Two make a stand at the leaders, two at the wheelers, two present themselves at the door, prudently keeping themselves rather in the background for

fear of accident, and two are posted behind them to come to their succour if wanted. All this time several of the gang, who are on foot, creep out from the adjoining hedges, ready upon any emergency, to make themselves generally useful (I must here remark that this minute description of their proceedings was afterwards given me by the coachman, who quietly witnessed all their manœuvres). All these were well armed, and wore black masks over their faces. One of them, who appeared to be their commander, ordered us immediately to dismount from the vehicle, somewhat in those terms, "Get down, or by St. —— I'll shoot every one of you." At this peremptory summons we looked at one another, each by a sudden impulse grasping his pistol. Having thus made due preparations, my friend the German doctor, addressing the speaker, said that he had no doubt that he and his party were the escort which the Alcalde had promised to send with us, and that they had made a mistake in treating us in the way they had done.

This jocular mode of dealing with the question was quite unavailing; several round oaths were ejaculated by our relentless

aggressors, and a general stir amongst them began to take place. We plainly saw that no time was to be lost, and, therefore, without more ado, we discharged a couple of pistols out of the window, and as we found to our great relief, with considerable effect. Two of the brigands were severely wounded, and were dragged by their companions through a hedge of prickly pears, and there left to recover or die. In fact, the whole party, with the exception of these, made a precipitate retreat; for when we threw open the doors of the carriage and jumped out, sword, blunderbuss, or pistol in hand, to fight like Britons, we found the coast perfectly clear. Our valour found no field for its exercise, and we contented ourselves with greeting our runaway antagonists with a parting shot, as they scampered away out of our sight. Instead of the exciting scene which threatened us with so much danger but a few moments before, everything around us was as quiet as ever, and we found ourselves in full possession of the field. My Yankee friend advised us immediately to reload all our fire-arms, to leave the wounded men to their fate, and to push on as fast as

possible, for fear of another attack. This was no sooner said than done, and away we started, fully prepared for another encounter. The ladies of the party scarcely recovered from the terrible fright into which the menacing posture of our assailants had thrown them. This adventure, too, had been a painful trial for the poor children. During our parley with the robbers, the German lady, who sat at my back, with her two little girls, had had the presence of mind to make them lie down in the bottom of the carriage for fear of random shots; and whilst the events above detailed were going on, they clung to me from terror with such tenacity, that the agitation of their minds had a powerful influence upon myself, tending much to unnerve me in the trying position in which I was placed. However, now that the danger was passed, we determined to make the best of our way forward, not much relishing the idea of a repetition of the scene; and as we advanced, we found abundant cause for the alarm, for the course of our journey led us through several narrow and difficult passes, where two or three resolute robbers might have destroyed the whole of our party with-

out sharing any risk in return. We pursued our way, however, unmolested, and finally arrived at a post-house where relays were kept, and found there stationed an officer and a company of men. They congratulated us upon our escape, telling us for our consolation, that the very band who had stopped us were in league with a certain captain of brigands, who could, on any emergency, muster together several hundreds of his followers, by whom even small divisions of troops had been sometimes roughly handled. Under these circumstances, we considered ourselves doubly fortunate, in having so completely turned the tables on our murderous assailants.

But to return from this digression. The day following that on which I again fell in with my old friend, the German doctor, one of the heroes, I may say, of the above tale, was the anniversary of the Patroness Saint of the city of Lima. From the break of day everybody seemed to be in motion. Flags and rich tapestries were hung from the windows and balconies, and lined the various streets. Bands of music, military bands, and detachments of soldiers, were passing continually to and fro. Ladies elegantly dressed,

followed by negro servants, bearing little carpets and numerous *tapadas*, were seen hurrying to the cathedral, to hear the Mass of Grace performed by the Bishop, in presence of the President, general officers, law doctors, and other functionaries of state.

The interior of this superb edifice is richly decorated, the several altars being covered with gold, silver, and precious stones, of the most rare and costly description, lent to the Church for this grand occasion by all the wealthy inhabitants of the city. The whole of the internal walls and columns are adorned with crimson velvet drapery, fringed with gold, and spangled with the same material. Myriads of wax tapers suspended in chandeliers, or crowded upon the altars, cast their brilliant glare around. The nave is richly carpeted; and on a slight elevation is placed the President's chair, facing which and at the sides are places set apart for the general officers, *aide-de-camps*, judges, law officers, ministers, heads of the various colleges, deputies of the chambers, and other important functionaries.

At the altar, which is entirely of silver, and decorated in the most costly manner,

stand the officiating priests in the grandest ceremonial attire; and close at hand, on a magnificent pedestal, richly gilt, and hung with festoons of roses which glitter in the light of a pyramid of wax-tapers, is the beautiful figure of the Lady Patroness, Santa Rosa, adorned with a diadem of brilliants and a robe of satin, embroidered with pearls and precious stones, and holding in her hands the symbolical rose, composed entirely of brilliants. The church is crowded with devout worshippers, including members of the chief families in the city. The President and his accompanying office-bearers take their places, when twenty young novices immediately advance, and present to each of these high functionaries a wax taper. Then the deep sonorous notes of the noble organ peal through the building, blending its tones with a loud chorus of voices, or accompanying the sweet cadences of some solo performer. The solemnities of the mass are gone through and the benediction given, when the order of procession is formed amidst the thunder of petards, the explosion and hissings of numberless rockets, squibs, and other fireworks; the dinning sound of vari-

ous bells, and the continual murmur of loud chantings and prayers. On the Plaza in front of the cathedral, several battalions are drawn up, headed by their officers, to receive the advancing procession with a salute, and then fall into their respective positions. The following was the order observed upon the occasion:—First came three companies of infantry, bareheaded; then two singing-boys in white surplices, carrying silver incense-burners in their hands; a noviciate, bearing a silver cross; the heads of colleges, followed by the several members, robed in crimson dresses and badges; the deputies, two-and-two; the law doctors, magistrates, and other officers of state; the President-General's *aide-de-camps*, staff, and household; three priests, the middle one holding the banner of the Cross; twenty-four singing-boys; three banners, that of Santa Rosa in the centre; fifty choristers and musicians; three priests, attired in sumptuous vestments; twenty young girls, dressed in white, scattering flowers; the image of the Saint, carried by twenty of the most important personages of the city, and surrounded by a number of priests, habited in surplices, and a body-

guard of soldiers, barcheaded; twenty friars; two incense boys; priest, with banner of the Church; grand canopy of embroidered silk, held over the head of the Bishop by six priests, each carrying a silver rod in his hand; three banners; a number of priests; three companies of soldiers; the various professions, represented by individuals, walking two and two, and carrying lighted tapers. Regiments of soldiers, each with its military band performing airs, brought up the rear. As the procession passes along, the spectators fall upon their knees and cross themselves. It makes the round of the Plaza, moving along through some of the principal streets of the city, and returning in like manner, through a perfect mass of living beings; windows, balconies, house-tops, and every available position being filled with their eager occupants, regarding with the greatest possible interest the varied procession, as it slowly wended its way along the prescribed route.

It was astonishing to me, that, amidst so much bustle and crowding, no serious accident occurred. There was not, so far as I heard, any breach of public morals, particularly as

ill-disposed persons had so many opportunities of exercising their vocation without any, or, at all events, with but a slight chance of detection. In countries where the Roman Catholic religion is prevalent, this is very remarkable; and whatever may be its faults, it certainly does exert such an influence over the minds of the most hardened and depraved, that they are, by force of habit, enabled for a time, and under certain circumstances, to put a check to their propensities, and to conduct themselves, for a period at least, with order and decorum.

During my stay at Lima, I received an invitation from an English friend of mine to pay him a visit for a week or two, at the delightful watering place of Chorillas, a few leagues distant. Having despatched my luggage a day beforehand, I hired a horse and set out upon my trip. Having passed through the small streets just within the walls, where misery, destitution, and debauchery, seemed to revel, I found when once through the gates of the town, orchards, beautiful gardens, and plantations, beginning to attract my view, and increasing on every hand as I proceeded. The road was excellent, but not so secure

but that every advancing horseman met his fellow with distrust, taking care to exhibit his pistols in a conspicuous manner, as he rode rapidly along. The route, which followed the course of the sea shore, though at some considerable distance, was soon rendered more lonely by the appearance every now and then of the ruins of large buildings with numerous dilapidated walls. Occasionally large plantations of green cane came in sight, and numerous bands of slaves might be seen busily employed upon them. Whilst progressing leisurely through this country, I came up with eight or ten fishermen on their return to Chorillas, who claimed my protection, as they informed me they had in the course of the previous week been stopped on the road and robbed of their little earnings. They told me that, independent of the regular highwaymen that infest this locality, the bands of slaves who are at work in the cane plantations, often quit their occupation to sally forth and rob and murder travellers, after which, leaving them on the road, they beat a hasty retreat to the fields. This state of things was suffered to go on without any attempt at a check on the part of the Govern-

ment, until a General Officer was robbed and illtreated on his way to visit the President, who was at that time staying at Chorillas. This made it necessary to take measures to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster; and from that time escorts have been provided for all persons of distinction travelling by this route. Robbers in this part of the world are characterized by a degree of audacity which is almost incredible. In the city of Lima itself, acts of plunder have been perpetrated in open day, with the most perfect impunity, although, of course, the hazard has been proportionably great. A number of these bold thieves have been known to enter a house at mid-day, and having closed the entrance, and gagged, tied, and handcuffed the poor unfortunate inmates, to ransack it of every article of any value; and then descend to the streets filled with passengers, and walk away as if nothing had happened. The system of police in these parts must be deficient in that great *desideratum* of effecting its object by the influence of intimidation, where such things as these are even possible, not to say, of very general occurrence.

After deviating from the highroad for a

short distance, in order to visit a number of *Quintas* or summer villas, beautifully situated with a view of the sea in front, and surrounded by luxuriant gardens and fine trees, the delightful bay soon came in sight. On an opposite range of cliffs, the pleasant watering place of Chorillas, whose numerous villas line the coast, presents to the traveller a most agreeable *coup d'œuil*. Unlike most small towns in these parts, this place posesses very comfortable houses, a first-rate hotel, *cafés*, and billiard rooms. In the fashionable season, I am told that house-rent is excessively dear. It is in fact a little Brighton, and the resort of many families of distinction during a few months in the year. After passing an agreeable evening with my friend, I made arrangements with him to go over the cliffs on the morrow, and have a little shooting. The morning turned out very clear and propitious, and in company with my friend and a couple of English dogs I made a start. Passing over the cliff, along which lay the first part of our journey, we had the calm waters of the bay spread out beneath us; whilst watching from the dizzy heights its mirrored surface, my attention was directed to some strange

animal, which I discovered to be one of those enormous sea-horses, to which I have already alluded, in speaking of the Island of San Lorenzo.

Its appearance, from the great elevation at which I beheld it, was extremely singular. Its body seemed to be of a prodigious length, and covered with a short, glossy coat. With the exception of two great white tusks, projecting from the mouth on either side, the form of its head resembled that of a seal. This monster swam about with great rapidity, at times showing the greater portion of his body above the water, and at other times disappearing from view altogether. On striking upwards from the path by which we had so far travelled, we ascended a succession of cliffs, each higher than the other, sometimes being obliged to crawl on all-fours, where the nature of the path would not allow of our walking erect. After turning a sharp corner, we at last reached the shelf of a projecting cliff, having an Indian track along its very verge, of scarcely a foot in width, and immediately over a deep and fathomless abyss. My friend, accustomed to the dangerous height, passed unconcernedly

along, with his eyes fixed upon the scene before him. I, on the other hand, had too much to do in giving due attention to the occasional change of posture that was necessary, and therefore could take no notice of anything but the next step in advance. All at once I raised my eyes, and beheld myself on the brink of the precipice. The giant rocks formed range upon range, and were here and there hollowed out into deep caverns, whilst their rugged peaks, bleached by their continual war with the elements, stood out in their naked sublimity, and frowned upon the foaming waters beneath. Around their pinnacles hovered, high in the air, hundreds of pelicans, and every species of marine bird, mingling with the roar of the tide and the wind's dismal moan, the unearthly discord of their screaming cry. The terrors of this scene, so sudden and so stupendous, were quite overwhelming, and made me completely stand aghast. This exciting moment made the big drops stand upon my brow, and chase each other in quick succession on my pallid features. Each limb refused to perform its office. The brain was beginning to participate in the

general feeling, and my powers of thought and reasoning were fast ebbing away, when the firm grasp of my friend's extended hand recalled me to my senses. I now turned my eyes from the fearful abyss, where, in another moment, I might have been dashed to atoms, had not my companion warned me to fix my attention alone upon the path I was treading. I did so, and regained my confidence; nor did I venture to lift my eyes again from the ground till, having arrived at a pinnacle resembling a small martello tower, I came to a stand, to look around in comparative security. Perched like an eagle in his nest, I could regard the blue heavens above me with composure, whilst shadow after shadow, as from a passing cloud, occasionally obscured its brightness. I looked up, and saw, to my astonishment, soaring on his outstretched pinions, and sweeping in proud majesty along his boundless domain, the mighty condor, in his aerial flight. A number of these extraordinary birds, measuring from twelve to fourteen feet from wing to wing, were hovering about, and floating in the air just above my head, startled, no doubt, by the unusual circum-

stance of finding human beings invading their haunts, and occasionally making a descent, and sweeping by with such rapidity that the current of air they set in motion was distinctly felt.

At length, not much relishing their familiar proximity, I fired a couple of barrels, one loaded with shot, and another with ball, at an enormous specimen immediately over my head. The only apparent effect which this produced was to startle a shower of feathers, which came down floating about in the air, and falling on the ground in all directions, the frightened bird soaring away out of my reach, but not so precipitately as might have been expected. My friend, an old explorer of these wilds, told me that he would give me a treat, and bade me watch his descent from the high position on which we were standing. Leaving me, he urged his way to an opening in the cliff, where the projecting points of some rugged rocks furnished him with the means of passing down a descent too horrible to look upon; and yet, with his gun slung across his shoulder, he set about his hazardous task, and springing from crag to crag, accomplished it with ease.

I watched his pigmy form, till at last he came to a standstill upon a shelf of rock, as hundreds of birds, disturbed from their impregnable fastnesses, rose in the air and fluttered about, rending the air with their screams, as if determined to dispute the advance of an intruder into their exclusive territory. All at once a couple of shots were fired, when the number of these birds increased to thousands, flock after flock breaking forth from every hidden cavern or pinnacle of rock along the coast, mingling in their flight, and joining in one chorus of wild and discordant screams.

I remained for some time, secure in my eyrie, regarding with wonder the several fragments of reddish rock which stood out in the sea, resembling in their fantastic shapes fortresses, bastions, towers, counterscarps, all surrounded by channels, and detached from the main land by the action of the water.*

* On another occasion, having descended to the beach by another route, I had an opportunity of inspecting more closely these curious *phenomena* of nature; and as the tide retired and laid bare more of these singular rocks, I discovered channels leading from them and

On some sands close by I descried two pelicans that I had shot; and an Indian, who asked me for permission to secure them, effected great marvels in attaining his object. After being joined by my venturesome companion, I was conducted home by a route more agreeable to my nerves, although we had to experience much discomfort, and endure a great deal of additional fatigue in passing along several deep ravines and watercourses. When once at home, I had much pleasure in talking over, with my friend, the adventures of the day; and, now that all danger was over, I joined readily with him in a hearty laugh against myself,

communicating with the main land, of more than a mile in length, and as beautifully executed as if wrought by the mason's chisel. I descended into one of these subterranean passages in pursuit of crabs, which, together with a variety of shell-fish, are found here in great numbers at low water. During my ramble, a squall no doubt had formed, and I was greatly alarmed by several reports like the firing of great guns, and then a fearful rush of waters. I had barely time to climb up the side of the rock, when they swept along with overwhelming rapidity, carrying everything before them. I was now glad to seek the outlet, and find myself beyond the reach of danger.

at the pitiable figure I had cut in crossing the mountain paths.

On the following morning, I took a stroll along the beach, and was much amused at witnessing the singular mode adopted by the ladies for the enjoyment of a water excursion. The bathing-men are Indians, very stout and robust, who being divested of every species of covering, except a pair of drawers, take to the water, each carrying a lady upon his shoulders. The men strike out to swim, and do so without inconveniencing the ladies, who float horizontally on the surface of the water. In this way they are carried for a mile or more, and appear to enjoy this novel mode of locomotion extremely.

After this, I joined, as previously arranged, my friend and two ladies, in order to visit on horseback, some extraordinary ruins of a temple, or palace of the Incas, near Chorillas, and which is in a remarkably fine state of preservation. Taking the inland road, we passed many flourishing plantations of cane, maize, and barley, and afterwards entered a small village, where numbers of Indians, dressed out in their holiday attire, and bedecked with a profusion of ornaments, were

celebrating a rustic *fête* in the Plaza, in front of the church. At length, after advancing some considerable distance further, we arrived near an orchard, near to which were the ruins of which we were in search. Near it was an Indian cottage of a superior order, at which the toll of a *madio* per head, gave each person of the party the privilege of eating as much fruit as he pleased, and of taking away a small quantity with him. This orchard, or garden, covered a space of ten or a dozen acres of land, and was laid out regularly in groves. The trees, which were of a splendid growth, were covered with fruit, in some cases to such an extent as to weigh down the branches; and beneath their ample shade, various parties of ladies and gentlemen were reposing and enjoying the delicious fruits they had gathered. In some parts the song or soft tones of the Spanish guitar were heard, to whose dulcet sounds the light step of the graceful dancers beat time on the green sward. After an agreeable ramble amongst the trees, during which we availed ourselves of the privileges we had secured to our heart's content, we again mounted our horses, and advanced towards the ruins.

These consist of walls and foundations of some stupendous building, which by some is supposed to have been a palace of the Incas, by others a temple of the sun, whilst others regard them as a part of the remains of the great fortress of the empire. However this be, the building or buildings of which but fragments of ruins now remain, must have been on a colossal scale, covering as they do many acres of land. The distance between some of the walls, shows that some of the rooms must have been large and spacious, but for the most part they are small, having many passages and communications between them. The back of the edifice seems to have opened into enclosed grounds of some considerable extent. This leads to the conclusion that here were the gardens attached to the nunneries of those ancient times. The Incas often had their palaces adjoining the temple of the sun, near which was the convent of the officiating virgins, and attached to this was generally a delightful park or garden, well wooded with groves of the most choice and luxuriant trees. Sometimes contiguous to these buildings were the public granaries, and in other cases a fort or citadel. The

number of vases, utensils of earthenware, and trinkets of gold and silver found here is prodigious, as well as mummies found generally in a sitting posture, though in a perfect state of preservation, attributable, no doubt, to the effect of the dry sandy soil, which has the property of extracting the moisture from animal matter without suffering it to lose its outward form. The whole of these ruins are constructed of *adobe* (mud), with the exception of several very large stones, which have been used in laying the foundation.

Delighted with my excursion, I returned to Chorillas, and soon after, having bid adieu to my kind friends in that agreeable retreat, I prepared again to visit the capital. My stay here was now very short, as the period for the steamer's departure had nearly arrived. However, I made the best use of my time in partaking of every species of enjoyment which the place afforded. On two evenings in the week, the military bands played for a short time at the back of the palace of the President, which drew together a large concourse of fashionable people belonging to the city. Operas, polkas, quadrilles, waltzes, and *baylarcitos* (little dances

peculiar to the country), followed each other in quick succession, to the great delight of many a group of lovely *señoritas*, accompanied by their *duennas*. I found in general amongst the middling class of society, a lax etiquette to be very prevalent. It was easy enough to get into conversation with young ladies, even when escorted by their mothers, *duennas*, or brothers, during the course of the serenade, but that, however, ceased with the music. The place at which this promenade takes place is opposite a church which encloses the city gates, where there is a communication not unlike the Bridge of Sighs, at Venice.

This locality, during the time of the Inquisition, was the theatre of many horrors. Here was celebrated the *auto da fè* of the new world. In the interior I was informed that many dismal dungeons and instruments of torture may yet be seen. During my stay at Lima, I made a point of visiting some of the old monasteries belonging to the Jesuits. These buildings are little towns in themselves, a regular complication of cells, courts, passages, chapels, refectories, and gardens; and here multitudes of monks once passed their time in study, or in the observance of the

stated hours of religious worship. Now, however, their numbers have dwindled away considerably. A few friars and their attendant lay brothers are all that remain of the thriving communities who once swarmed in these spacious establishments. Now silence and desolation reign everywhere, and scarce a footfall is heard, where sounds of life and industry once echoed along the walls. As regards the government of the country, that of General Castillan has few redeeming points, but that which is most advantageous to the people at large is the continual state of peace which he has hitherto maintained through his policy. His repeated attempts to levy fresh contributions, and introduce new taxes, have given great dissatisfaction; not less, however, than his dislike to foreigners, whom he endeavoured to discountenance in every possible way. This has brought forth a protest on the part of the English Minister, who has succeeded in getting many stringent regulations relaxed on behalf of his nation. The natural character of the man is proud and ambitious, cunning, with a dash of bravery, but at the same time a consummate hypocrite. I

observed him smile in derision when showing to some friends the candle he had held on the occasion of the fête of Santa Rosa, in which he had taken part with all the solemnity of a bigot, practising before the multitude all the *ad captandum* airs of an adroit dissembler.

I had now completed all my arrangements for leaving Lima; and having embarked on board the steamer, found myself the next day at Pisco, a small port of a very wild and extraordinary appearance. An accumulation of large detached rocks meets the eye in all directions. Against these the raging waves dash themselves and sprinkle their white foam, and numerous seals are seen scrambling about over their rough points, or basking in security in their deep hollows. The coast is everywhere dark and uninviting, and a fragile, ill-constructed landing, splashed by every wave, offers its slippery footing to the anxious traveller. On the cliff, two superior houses, surrounded by enclosures of wooden railings, mark the residences of the British and American consuls. Having passed these, we entered the town, which presents nothing remarkable to the tourist, consisting as usual of one broad street, with its stores and shops,

and a Plaza with its accompanying church. Pisco is famed throughout the whole of this part of South America for a kind of spirit of the same name, which is distilled in large quantities, and imported to all parts of the country. The consumption of this liquor is enormous, and a degree of bustle, owing to the continual passing to and fro of mules laden with jars of it, gives to the town rather a lively appearance. After making the purchase of a few cigars, I hastened on board the steamer, and bade adieu to Pisco. On the next day before sunset, we were again drawing near to land, the coast being rocky and rugged, and swarming with pelicans, which in flights of six or seven at a time were continually passing the vessel, and affording excellent practice to many a young aspiring sportsman. A sort of bay was entered, the high cliffs gradually forming into a deep recess, behind which, I was informed, was the port of Isly. The appearance of several droves of heavily-laden mules seemed to confirm the statement. An American whaler was riding at anchor some distance off. We did not approach very near to the port, but cruising about in the neighbourhood without

coming to anchor, we received some passengers from one of those large rafts so much in use along this coast. After rather a rough night, and more tossing about than was agreeable, we arrived at last at Arica. I now bade adieu, for many a day, to the blue Pacific, to tread the soil of the Incas, so beautifully delineated by Chateaubriand in his magnificent poetical effusions. A large tract of interesting country lay before me, and I was now about, perhaps, to follow in the footsteps of that handful of bold and turbulent spirits, who having first alighted on these shores from the Old World, in their fanatical zeal, first conquered and then destroyed one of the most innocent of paternal systems of government, and planted in the hearts of their descendants the seeds of dissatisfaction, avarice, cruelty, and rapine, leaving them deficient in those settled principles of action which alone can make a great people.

CHAPTER IV.

Description of the Coast of Peru—Arica—Tacna—Ventellia—Palca—Tacorian range—Rio Mauri, frontier of Bolivia—Bridge of Nasacara—First View of La Paz.

THE coast of Peru may be said to consist of a line of sandy desert, five hundred leagues in length, the breadth varying from seven to fifty miles, as the several branches of the Andes approach or recede from the shores of the Pacific Ocean. It presents great inequalities of surface, and has the appearance of having once formed a part of the bed of the adjoining ocean; and were it not for the stupendous background to the scene, by means of which all other objects are reduced to a comparatively diminutive outline, the sand hills nearer the shore might

be called mountains. This long line of desert is intersected by rivers and streams, which are seldom less than twenty or more than eighty or ninety miles apart, and narrow strips on both banks of every stream are peopled in proportion to the supply of water. During the rainy season in the interior, or when the snow on the Andes begins to melt, the great rivers on the coast swell prodigiously, and are crossed only by means of *bolsas*, which are rafts fastened on four bulls' hides sewed up to render them watertight, and filled with air. On account of the tremendous surf, *bolsas* of a different construction are used on this coast. The largest kind is formed of several trunks of trees lashed together, upon these are arranged three or four cross-pieces, and then another flooring of the same number of logs as the bottom tier. These rafts are run aground, and the surf, in moderate weather, does not break over the upper tier so as to injure goods or wet passengers. A pole is stuck in the middle, to which a sail is rigged. The rudder is a plank run into the water between the logs, rather abaft the centre.

In this way merchant vessels are com-

monly unloaded in many places; on some parts of the coast a long bundle of rushes, tapering at each extremity, is used, particularly by fishermen, who seat themselves astride and paddle through the swell.

A few of the large rivers reach the sea, but most of those of the second order are consumed in irrigating the cultivated patches, or are absorbed by the desert through which they pass, for in this inhospitable region it never rains. Here is to be seen neither bird, beast, nor reptile, nor even a blade of vegetation. Sometimes a rill of water bubbles up, but it is lost again within the space of a hundred yards. Very often the banks of rivers are too steep and rugged to admit the water being applied to the purposes of irrigation, consequently the surrounding country cannot be cultivated. No stranger can travel from valley to valley, as the inhabited strips are inappropriately called, without a guide; for the only indication that the desert has been trodden before is an occasional cluster of bones, the remains of beasts of burden that have perished. The sand is frequently raised into immense clouds by the wind, to the great annoyance of the traveller, who

generally rides with his face muffled up. The obstacles to moving, in a country like this, a body of troops from one point to another, can only be appreciated by military men, who have had to contend against them. But descriptions unaccompanied by a statement of facts, will fall short of conveying even a faint idea of the horrors of the desert.

It is by no means a rare occurrence for the most experienced guides to lose their way in these trackless deserts. In that case, terror instantly reduces them to a state bordering on insanity; and, unless they soon recover the path by chance, or are fortunate enough to see indications of other travellers looming above the horizon, they inevitably perish, and, like a foundering ship on the broad ocean, leave nothing behind them to mark their fate. In these extensive deserts, the merest puff of wind will obliterate the footsteps of a column of soldiers, so that not the slightest trace of them remains behind. The guides are, nevertheless, very expert, and regulate their course by circumstances, unobservable by the casual traveller.

When Colonel Miller galloped across the

Desert of Siguas, ten leagues in breadth, he expressed some doubt to his guides as to whether they were following the right direction. They informed him that, so long as a bright star, which they pointed out to him, remained in sight, there was no danger of their losing the way; remarking, at the same time, that, as the wind always blew from the same quarter, they had only to keep the breeze blowing towards the left eye in order to ensure their making progress towards the valley of Vitor. Detachments of troops, however, and even entire corps, have often been known to lose themselves for a considerable time.

When the remains of General Alvarado's army were on their passage by sea from the Puertos Intermedios to Lima, in 1823, a transport, conveying above three hundred cavalry, got on shore and went to pieces twelve leagues south of Pisco, and fourteen leagues west of Ica. All hands escaped to shore; but, in attempting to find their way to Pisco, they lost themselves for thirty-six hours, until they became at length utterly bewildered, and gave themselves up to despair. On the tidings of the wreck reaching

Pisco, a regiment of cavalry was ordered out with a supply of water, to pick up the unfortunate sufferers. Amongst the survivors of the catastrophe was Colonel Lavelle, the commanding officer of the shipwrecked soldiers, who thus recounted the circumstances attendant on the direful calamity. He stated that amongst the number of those who reached the shore was an orderly who had fought by his side at various battles, and who had, on one occasion, been instrumental in saving his life, at the risk of his own. This man, strange to relate, was now as insensible to the distresses of his master as to those of his comrades, and was driven to desperation by the prospect of a continuance of the sufferings to which he was exposed. Overcome by fatigue, he would at times drop upon the surface of the burning soil and tear up the sand in search of water, in a paroxysm of agony and impatience. After the party had proceeded for some leagues, in the distance were descried a few date trees, near the roots of which water is always to be found. A feeble cry of joy burst from the parched tongues of the foremost, not so much to encourage those in the rear as to

express the hopes which animated themselves as they caught sight of the trees towering in the distance. Weak as they were, they immediately quickened their pace, although, before they reached the desired spot, numbers of them fell lifeless to the ground from sheer exhaustion. A few, who had strength enough left, at last gained the place, when, throwing themselves on the ground at the feet of these lofty beacons, they scratched the earth with their hands with untiring vigour, till a moisture came oozing forth from the roots, and this the poor sufferers sucked with avidity, and with a relish which, perhaps, they had never before experienced. The slight relief which this gave them for a time cooled the parched lip and moistened the dry throat; but it did not satisfy. Soon the burning fever returned with redoubled force, and the excruciating agonies of despair shook every frame. Then, with a last effort, many, with an accession of energy as death stared them in the face, started up, and jumping on the earth, scratched with all their might, with a demoniac laugh and eyeballs stretched out to their farthest extent, till the delirious raving having expended its fury, left its

victim a black and shrunken corpse upon the sand.

At length the wished-for succour came; squadron after squadron arrived upon the spot, and as they passed with horror the discoloured and distorted bodies of former comrades, they failed to recognise them as they lay rotting on the burning sand. One third only of the three hundred men who escaped the wreck, survived the dreadful ordeal through which they subsequently had to pass. Unable to raise themselves from the ground, they could but look up in the faces of their deliverers and smile their deb of gratitude. Inarticulate sounds only could escape them as they made an effort to express in words the thankfulness they felt for their timely rescue. Every remedy that suggested itself was tried for the purpose of restoring the famished frames of these exhausted sufferers; and each trooper at last left the spot, carrying with him one of these unhappy men with all the tenderness of a mother for her offspring. On their arrival at Pisco, the kind people of that place were unremitting in their attentions, and seemed glad to have the opportunity of providing

for the necessities of those poor soldiers, who had so valiantly risked their lives in the cause of the independence and regeneration of South America.

In such a dreary tract of country as I have been describing, is situated the seaport of Arica, through which quantities of European merchandise are transferred to the interior of Bolivia. It contains about eight hundred inhabitants. The view seaward, and the barren plains and sand hills, present the usual characteristics of this line of coast. By a ponderous and gloomy-looking rock which shelters the harbour, the shipping within is rendered tolerably secure from wind and weather. The sandy plain on which the town is situated extends to the valley of Tacna, and is continued thence to the foot of the majestic range of the Cordilleras, whose snow-capped summits glitter in the sunbeams, and stand out in distinct outline on the azure firmament of these favoured climes. A kind of raised terrace has been formed on the beach, containing a row of good substantial warehouses and private dwellings, which for the most part belonged to an Englishman—the late Mr. John Murphy. Conti-

guous to these is the residence of the Government, Custom House, &c.; and at a short distance, in the same row of buildings, is the British Consulate. On the rocky side runs out a mole or landing, rudely constructed of wood and stone, and situated behind it is the greater part of the town, consisting of streets intersecting each other at right angles, and a spacious Plaza, or square.

The traveller, on disembarking at this miserable locality, will be forcibly impressed with the prospect of the many hardships he is likely to undergo in the course of his journey to the interior. The monotony, however, of a sojourn at this place is often broken by the sight of numerous droves of heavily-laden mules, who are on their way to Tacna, and other distant towns. One of the evenings which I spent here was agreeably beguiled in witnessing a religious demonstration in favour of some pet saint. It consisted of a procession which moved slowly on to the tune of some drawling chant, and in which a profusion of tallow candles figured most prominently. The Plaza was very tastefully decorated with festoons of flowers, here and there interspersed with

lamps, branches, and leaves. In the centre arose a temple made entirely of fireworks, which, when the beauties of the structure had been sufficiently admired, were set on fire, and to the delight of the spectators at this maritime site, the whole was changed at once to the representation of a ship in full sail.

For those who have any sporting propensities, some very excellent pigeon shooting may be found in a valley between two and three leagues from the town. I saw a whole mule-load, which was the product of two guns, after but a single day's sport. Being desirous of pushing on into the interior, I procured horses and mules for myself and baggage, and made a start.

At a distance of about fourteen leagues from Arica stands Tacna, a place of some importance, and containing 17,000 inhabitants. It is here that most of the large wholesale foreign houses are located. On leaving Arica the road skirts the sea shore for some distance, and then gradually turns more inland. The reflection from the sands in these regions, when the sun is high in the heavens, produces a very painful sensation in the eyes, and inflammation invariably su-

pervenes, unless they are protected by a gauze veil, or coloured glasses. The unusual dryness of the atmosphere is evidenced by the great number of bleached skeletons of mules, without a particle of animal matter remaining upon them, which continually greet the traveller. As he advances, the arid plains become more undulating; they then assume the form of a succession of ridges, until at length they unite in the distance, and form the mighty Cordilleras, whose summits tower high above the clouds.

On approaching the bed of a river of some magnitude, bordered by high embankments, a few shrubs relieve the unvarying sameness of the sandy desert. Near to this spot are several hovels, which form a kind of post or resting place, used by the merchants for their relays. From an elevation, within two leagues of Tacna, is seen the town imbedded in a valley, which is most abundant in verdure, and which stretches to the very foot of the grand mountain barrier; thus producing a delightful contrast to the everlasting sand hills and levels which characterize the coast. Droves of llamas, loaded with copper, and various exports and imports, cross

each other upon the road, whilst they are cheered by the rustic notes of their Indian guides, as they toil along to their various destinations. The approaches to the town present numerous neat *quintas*, with their well cultivated gardens and orchards, in which are found many of the varieties of fruit and flowers which so commonly luxuriate in a tropical clime. After crossing a small bridge, which spans a paved canal, running through the centre of the Alameda, or public promenade, the town is entered. It covers a considerable space; and from its proximity to the coast, commands the greater part of the internal European commerce of Bolivia. Its construction is irregular, and the general plan adopted by the founders of cities in the New World seems not here to have been observed. Unfortunately, it is subject to frequent earthquakes. When they assume an horizontal action, which is generally the case, the damage is confined merely to the cracking of walls, displacing of roofs, or injury to buildings which are out of the perpendicular. But occasionally the action is

perpendicular, and then the effect is most disastrous.

An instance of this kind occurred a few years since, when the principal church was reduced to a heap of ruins. On the same foundation an elegant modern edifice has been raised, which, judging by the large and continuous rents which disfigure its *façade*, seems doomed to the same fate. A great inconvenience which is experienced in this place is its want of water. It is sold at a high price, and but scantily supplied only two days in the week. If this drawback could be remedied, this town would greatly increase in importance. The Alameda presents all the appearance of a Continental *boulevard*, the walk being provided with seats, and flanked on both sides by small shops.

The merchants and heads of commercial branch-houses have formed here a petty aristocracy, and assume all the airs and pretensions of that class.

On leaving Tacna for an inland journey, the first requisite was to furnish myself with a good saddle *mulo de passo*, for on so uneven

and wayward a tract, any ordinary beast will almost jolt a person to death. This is easily accomplished. The next thing is to make an arrangement with some well-known *herrero*, or blacksmith, at a stipulated price per head for each animal, for the conveyance of your goods and baggage, by no means forgetting the necessity of an extra hand. This point must be particularly attended to; for, otherwise, in spite of the fatigues of the journey, you will be oftentimes compelled to assist in the arrangement of your packages, which are continually being displaced on the road, as it is impossible for one person to do it without further help.

When you have made these arrangements, it will then be necessary to provide yourself with tea, sugar, chocolate, rice, pepper, salt, and pickles; meat, *charcas*, *cholones*, and a fresh sheep, together with a few tins of preserved meat; the road all along to the city of La Paz being unprovided with posts, and therefore affording, except in one or two exceptional cases, neither food nor accommodation.

My *herrero* had such continual calls upon his attention, in making the necessary provision for my journey, that I did not get

fairly under weigh till late in the day. However, this was of little consequence, as I had determined to pass the night at Ventellia, which is but a few leagues distant, on the outskirts of the valley. The scenery, as you advance, consists of fine pasture land on both sides, with well-cultivated fields and trees; and the landscape is occasionally enlivened by multitudes of mules and llamas, who were on this occasion, as they passed and re-passed, serenaded by the musical pipes of their Indian drovers.

These adventures, together with the occasional salutation of some solitary traveller whom you meet upon the road, or the joyous laugh of some merry homeward-bound party, sufficiently amuse the senses, and make the tedious leagues easily accomplished.

We at last arrived at our destination. The post of Ventellia consists of a red building, which contains one large room, out-houses, or *corrales* for animals, and other conveniences. In the corners of this room are square earthen mounds, where travellers arrange their beds and make themselves as comfortable as circumstances will permit. Having alighted at this place, I encountered the

hostess—a dapper little woman with two pretty roguish-looking daughters, who seemed perfectly willing to offer me a hearty welcome. My mules unladen, and baggage housed, the *herrero*, assisted by the aforesaid damsels, soon set to work in good earnest to select from my provisions the necessaries I required. They soon concocted for me an excellent *chupe*, together with some good tea; and after finding myself greatly refreshed by participating in such acceptable fare, and indulging in the luxury of a mild Havannah, I prepared to retire to rest for the night. Gentle reader, you may judge of my surprise at beholding these two vestals and their mother strike their canvass and jump into bed not further off than five or six paces from my crib! This circumstance seemed not to have the least effect upon my neighbours, who, no doubt, reposed in the confidence of perfect security, without probably wasting even a thought upon me. For my part, so unaccountable a breach of propriety drove away every wink of sleep from my eyelids, and left me to indulge in a long waking reverie; until, at length, the streaks of morning light penetrating the windows

and doorway, I gladly hailed the coming day. It was not long before the *herrero* was at my bed-side, urging upon me the importance of making an early start, as the moon was at her full; thereby affording us an excellent opportunity of getting over some leagues in the comparatively cool and refreshing air of the early twilight. I readily consented, and a very short time sufficed to put everything in order for my departure. After satisfying the demands of my hostess, and receiving a blushing farewell from my dark beauties, I reluctantly withdrew.

It is not easy to account for that prepossessing influence which inclines us to take a fancy to certain persons at first sight. In strange and distant lands, however, this is particularly the case, where the heart, in its isolation, catches at the least mark of attention and kindness. To illustrate this peculiar sympathy, I will here narrate an instance which occurred to me in the year 1846, when, on my third visit to the Mexican capital, in company with two young noblemen, officers in the Guards, I was proceeding by diligence towards the capital of Montegurra. We were halting about mid-day at a

hosteria, where a *table d'hôte* was provided, kept by a comely and superior sort of hostess. Our party had no sooner made its appearance than this lady evinced the greatest solicitude for our comfort, overwhelming us with every kind of civility and attention. She hardly left us for a moment, to the entire neglect of the other travellers who were sojourning in the house. To have seen her occasionally embracing us and shedding tears, it must have appeared rather the meeting of a mother and her long absent sons, than that of mere visitors who expected nothing more than the usual welcome at a road-side inn. The whole circumstance appeared to me so strange that I respectfully ventured to inquire of her the meaning of this strange sympathy. She then gave me the following explanation:—

A short time previously the diligence had been stopped by a band of well-mounted robbers, who severely wounded, robbed, and maltreated the travellers. Amongst these were a couple of young English gentlemen, who very likely offered some resistance, as they were afterwards found left for dead in the road, nearly stript and covered with many severe cuts in different parts of their bodies.

This kind and feeling woman, having witnessed the occurrence, hastened to their assistance, as soon as the robbers had decamped with their booty, caused them to be conveyed to her house, and was unceasing in her attentions and alleviations of their sufferings. She informed me that immediately on our entrance she recognised in us the features of our countrymen, that this circumstance recalled to her mind those dreadful moments, and that she was now overcome with fears for our future safety. She said that she could not tell why, but that she loved our people from the very first time she beheld them.

On equipping myself for the road, I sallied forth and only perceived streaks of light in a particular part of the horizon, as yet too faint to dispel the general gloom. My *herrero*, armed with a lantern, was busily employed in collecting and arranging his mules. On perceiving me, he gave me the following wholesome advice,—"Sir, it is advisable that we should take advantage of the coolness of the night, as our mid-day travelling will be intolerably hot, (this observation was too soon to be verified;) in the space of twenty minutes or half an hour the moon will rise, and

it will then be almost as light as day." This advice was no sooner given than acted upon. The ordering of our march was a matter soon accomplished, and away we started. Journeying by midnight in such a country as this, has a peculiar effect on the imagination. The deathlike stillness of all around suggests every imaginary fear, and the eye wanders over lakes, or pictures forth some direful precipice or chasm which has no existence, but in the mind of the traveller. On directing the eyes upward, everything is characteristic of the skies in the southern hemisphere. The canopy of the heavens sparkling with innumerable stars, which stand out in gem-like splendour on the dark arch of the firmament. The grandeur and majesty of such a scene cannot be surpassed, and calls forth every sentiment of awe and admiration. The change from night to morning is very sudden. The sun is no sooner seen than he is above the horizon. Whilst, perhaps, wandering in thought amidst those distant worlds above his head, the traveller all at once catches bright gleams of light darting along the horizon, and tinging the surrounding clouds with many a silvery hue. On a sudden, a globe

as it were of fire appears, and of truly colossal dimensions. The god of day commences his career in the heavens, the general gloom is everywhere dispersed, and soon the most indistinct object is lighted up and stands out in bold relief on the azure sky.

On witnessing such a scene, I found that the cool breeze of night had not yet given place to the scorching heat of the coming day; and I found that I was compelled to draw my *poncho* tighter round the body, and advance apace. Arriving at a small *cabrada*, or mountain pass, in which was situated an Indian house, I determined to make a halt, as I expected to be overtaken by a fellow-traveller. I therefore sent my baggage on before me, intending to overtake it at my leisure; and, as the sun began to gain force, and everything indicated a melting hot day, I prepared to unload my breakfast, and arrange my solitary pic-nic. This consisted of a cold fowl, ham, pickles, and a bottle of stout; and, fortified by a sharp appetite, I was about to make a vigorous attack, when, lo and behold! two gentlemen from La Paz turned the corner of the cliff, and, with a very good grace, introduced themselves to me

en voyageurs. I invited them to share my repast, and they did ample justice to the meal, to the great chagrin of the poor cottage Indians, who, watching every mouthful with dismay, must have feared that not even the very bones would be left to their share. In return for my hospitality, these gentlemen brought out from their private store some tea and sugar, mixed with *pisco*, as a sort of *bonne bouche*, after which, with many protestations of friendship, they took their leave, and left me to myself.

The heat being too great to allow of my resuming my journey, I determined to let some few hours slip, particularly as my resting-place for the night was within a few leagues,—the government building in the town of Palca. I amused myself by wandering into an orchard on the opposite side of the road, which was well shaded by fig-trees, and other kinds of trees, beneath whose branches flowers of different sorts spread themselves in graceful profusion, whilst a delightful spring of running water continually flowed from the adjacent rocks. After tarrying here till the heat of the sun had in a measure subsided, I again set forward,

traversing the *cabrada*, the next level of which reached the hills which form the base of the chain of the Andes, and increasing in altitude, rise, to all appearance, to the very heavens. Deep in this gorge roars a stream, as it battles its way to the plains below; and on the slopes of the hills, near small patches of cultivated land, appears the rude hut of the poor Indian. In more distant spots, selected for grazing, are to be seen numerous flocks, which are carefully tended and watched by many a youthful shepherd or shepherdess. Thus, as I was musing amidst a succession of beautiful mountain scenery, and slowly ascending a zigzag path, overshadowed by a projecting rock, I was startled from my reverie by a loud peal of laughter, the joyous notes of which, as they echoed from cliff to cliff, formed a pleasing accompaniment to the scene. On looking up, I saw far above me a group of the fair daughters of the land, looking like some choicest wood-nymphs disturbed in their rustic amusements by the profane approach of a satyr.

It appears that my presence had aroused their fears; for whilst gazing with rapturous delight on these dark-eyed beauties of this

sunny clime, they, startled like its native fawns, had soon taken refuge in flight.

After I had gained the elevation, I saw before me, like the nest of some solitary bird in a desert region, the post and hamlet of Palca. This government building consists of a large house, containing one capacious room for the accommodation of travellers, tolerably clean and comfortable, together with outhouses, *corrales*, &c. In this establishment eggs and many other delicacies are found, the comforts of which I was not slow to appreciate. Early next morning, before break of day, I was aroused by my *herrero*. Tempted by the refreshing breeze, he was anxious to proceed, as he well knew the arduous undertaking we had before us in the ascent of one of the great mountain passes of this lofty range. Having partaken of a hasty cup of chocolate, and assured myself of the proper adjustment of our baggage by the dim light of our lantern—since the least slip or derangement of his load might startle the poor beast, and hurl him, cargo and all, down some steep precipice, into the fathomless abyss below—we again set forward.

The road lay along a mountain gorge, where

numerous springs nourished a healthy and vigorous vegetation, forming a powerful contrast with the brown, stunted herbage that clothed the mountains around. The first beams of morning brought with them those chilling breezes that make the traveller dispose to hug his cloak, in the hope of additional warmth.

As the light increased, we found that we were about to leave behind us all the facilities of a somewhat level road, and nothing was seen in front but mountain piled on mountain to the very heavens. Advancing upwards, we at last caught sight of the glorious sun, shedding his bright rays on the mountain sides, and tinging their tops with purple gold. But we were doomed for some time to envy the genial warmth we saw above us, as the deep shadows in which we were enveloped poured their cold and benumbing influence on the scene immediately around us. As we slowly progressed, height after height was gained, until the great mountain which forms the block of the range, soaring high above us, seemed to stop all further advance. But these desolate regions were not unknown to the foot of man; and

often was my attention attracted by some Indian trail, sometimes but a few inches in width, which skimmed the mountain's brow, till lost in intricacies and precipices, apparently inaccessible to man or beast.

Having arrived at a slight level, a halt was made, in order to tighten the girths of the animals and safely secure the luggage—the least negligence on this score being the forerunner of certain destruction. All proving satisfactory, the ascent was commenced by a path which takes a zigzag course up an almost perpendicular mountain. The distress of the poor beasts of burden soon became very apparent. Every moment they were obliged to stop for breath, the great altitude we had attained rendering this more than ever necessary. When disposed to take a little temporary repose, no power on earth could have made them stir, till they had in some degree recruited their strength. Even I myself occasionally lingered behind, in spite of a remonstrance from my guide; and, when I could just see the whole caravan in its aerial pilgrimage above me, I slowly followed. When I had gained the ascent, I beheld with some uneasiness the consequence

of one false step, which must have inevitably swept the whole party to the gloomy depths below. At length the wished-for summit was gained, and here I witnessed a scene which, for sublimity cannot be equalled, and surpasses all my powers of description.

On the top of one of the highest ranges in the world, arose certain mountain peaks, soaring high above the rest, the very summits of the inferior range appearing to form their base. There they stood out, as they towered to the very skies, radiant with silvery whiteness, and reflecting many a bright tinge of light from the etheleal atmosphere to which they aspired in proud pre-eminence. From this lofty pile of mountains, the eye wanders over various slopes and windings into the fathomless abyss beneath. A different distances are seen craters or dry lakes, but so inconceivably small, that they are soon lost again in the extensive variety of objects which crowd upon the attention. Then, by minute observation, the eye can discern herds of llamas with their droves reposing on some table-land or slowly winding their way along the steep slopes of some adjoining mountain. It is only when the

difficulties of the descent are partially overcome that the opposite range is seen to advantage. Then it stands out in all its grandeur, and calls forth many an expression of awe and wonder at the stupendous character of this astonishing chain of mountain scenery.

Having thus far escaped any ill effects from the rarity of the atmosphere at these tremendous altitudes, I began to congratulate myself on being made of "sterner stuff" than would be subject to those laws to which ordinary mortals are fain to submit. But my *herrero*, who seemed to have a presentiment of the result, in telling me that the mountain in advance was the last barrier to the noble pass of Tacora, gently hinted that, although I had hitherto braved every danger, I was not to make myself too sure of having overcome all mishaps. The caution he gave me was shown to be not without reason, for on gaining the summit I immediately became sensible of a very heavy oppression on the respiratory organs, and I experienced such a racking head-ache, that I speedily lost all consciousness.

It must have been under the influence of

these disagreeable sensations that I either dismounted or fell from my saddle in a state of stupor; for, when I had a little recovered, I found myself on the ground, abandoned by my very mule; and there I lay, without a soul near me, overwhelmed by lassitude and anxiety, the sun's path in the heavens alone making me sensible of the fleeting hours that had passed. At length, to my great joy, one of our men, leading the truant animal, made his appearance; and shaking off the lethargy to which I had fallen a victim, and arming myself with as much determination as I could muster, I mounted and rode off. In making the descent along the mountain slopes, the way was everywhere characterized by rocky stumps, covered with moss of an extraordinary growth, which formed what resembled large velvet cushions, of every possible shape. After a long and tedious ride, rendered doubly so to me, who had scarcely recovered from the effects of *soroche*, to which I had so recently been compelled to succumb, I at last joined my travelling camp and cargoes, and soon afterwards alighted at the three miserable huts which formed the post of Tacora, where our small party was again re-united. I now,

however, found, to my inexpressible dismay, that the *herrero* and his *mozo*, together with a travelling companion, were all completely prostrated by the illness to which I myself had been exposed; and, weak as I was, I was obliged to act the part of cook, doctor, and general *factotum* to the whole community. But circumstances gave me the necessary energy, and I soon found myself able to make all the sleeping arrangements, cook victuals, and administer medicine and other necessaries to my poor disabled companions.

After passing a most uncomfortable night, which turned out most bitterly cold, and finding ourselves half buried in snow, which had found its way through the thatch of our fragile and ill-constructed cabin, we were soon *en route* again in the morning. We discovered ourselves to be in rather a dilapidated condition, as regarded our strength and animal spirits, after the misadventures of the previous day; but, aided by a good bowl of tea, we had courage to make a fair start, and the morning air sufficiently invigorated us to make us forget all our past grievances.

The road, which was still on the descent,

presented plain after plain, intersected by mountain ranges, some being slightly clad in snow; but even this feature of the scene was gradually on the decline. At length we reached the Rio Mauri, which forms the boundary between Peru and Bolivia. The banks of this river are high. It is many hundred feet in breadth, and in the rainy season must be wholly impassable, when swollen by the numerous cataracts and water-courses from the surrounding country, which are its tributaries.

The *herrero* having sent out scouts to find a suitable fording, they soon discovered the object of their search, and, having taken up their position in the water, ourselves and baggage mules waded our course in perfect safety between them to the opposite bank.

This elevation gained, the country on the other side presented to our view a flat surface, with occasional ridges of hills, or down, traversing the path. Now and then we could discern a *cabrada*, or ravine, formed by the impetuous streams which flow down from the mountains, though at that time exhibiting nothing but a dry watercourse. The ride this day seemed more long and tedious than

ever, as village after village was seen straggling on the brow of some distant hill.

Anxious to gain our resting place for the night, I inquired for the ardently wished-for Uchusuma, and at length it presented itself in the form of several Indian houses of a superior quality. They were built of stone and mud, well thatched, without windows, but with doors, though of such a description that the entry must be made on all fours, dog fashion. The lady of the house, an old shrivelled hag, with a *mamita* friend, and surrounded by a host of naked starving children, received us on our entrance. None of them ever seemed in the course of their lives to have indulged in the luxury of a wash, as, to all appearance, they carried about on their persons the accumulated deposits of years. Having rolled back some large stones, which barricaded one of the outhouses, we managed to make up some quarters for the night. At a distance of twenty or thirty yards, a beautiful crystal stream afforded us, at all events, a necessary supply of water, and by the aid of our travelling stock, and the addition of a few potatoes, we contrived to make a tolerable meal. Hunger and fatigue had given us

an appetite, and although we ate our humble fare under by no means the most favourable circumstances, we felt that we required no other sauce. The poor wretches who lived in this miserable hovel were doubtless contented, and therefore why should not we be so? Their desires keep pace with their wants, and they are few enough. Even money is often valued amongst them as something to be hoarded up as a treasure, and it is known that many of the Indians save every piece of silver they may gain in their lives only to bury it in the earth, where it is frequently for ever lost, through the sudden death of the parties.

All arrangements being completed in the morning, we again set off. Our way led across the plain to some rocky ground, which formed the entrance to a small *cabrada*, whose sides were washed by some mountain streams, which rushed and foamed at the impeding rocks which hindered their progress. At a certain point in our passage we came all at once upon a precipitous descent, and at this spot one of the grandest panoramas that ever mortal eye beheld burst upon our view. Here the whole party came to a

standstill, rivetted to the spot by the astounding scene before us. It was as if the whole of the beauties of Switzerland, with all its Alpine grandeur, had been now spread out before us, but augmented into those mighty proportions which characterize the landscape in this new world of the South. The clouds seemed to be drawn from their ethereal abode, and were descending in every fantastic shape, and blending in every shade of light with the numerous mountain tops that formed their base. These, clad in eternal snow, had assumed a silvery whiteness which it was painful to behold, and this vast expanse of glare was occasionally relieved by shadows of blue and yellow of varying depth, together with its warmer or cooler tints of grey, as it reflected more or less of the colour of the earth or sky. At the base of this sublime range a giant forest raised its sombre hue, and lower down might be traced the less stern pencillings of the warmer and luxuriant valleys of a tropical clime, engendering within their bosoms all that could charm the sense and captivate the eye. Mass after mass of beautiful forest verdure clothed the distance, which assumed

every variety of aspect, as numerous fleeting clouds shaded or disclosed the bright luminary, whose magic beams touched up for a moment with life and beauty every feature of the scene. Here and there were to be seen rivers in their meandering course, and stealing gently over the lovely sward, then rolling with impetuous wrath through rocky beds to the entrance of some dismal ravine, where their dark progress is lost to sight till again they are seen rushing down in some mighty fall, again perhaps to separate into numerous cascades, whose glassy surface reflects the bright colours of the rainbow. As the eye wanders nearer, range after range of mountain scenery, clad in bright green or the more sombre hue of mineral wealth, break a long level, where many a small lake presents its smooth surface, and on whose bosom the gaudy flamingo, duck, goose, teal, and snipe, with others of the feathered tribe, disport themselves with all the consciousness of happy existence. Nearer still, the traveller can descry where the high and rugged hills present a range of dark and sterile masses, rich with silver ore, the mines of Chullunçayani. At a *finca* close adjoining an English-

man resides, who has formed a company for working these mines. The house appeared outwardly comfortable, having been no doubt altered and remodelled after the European fashion. I did not make a halt here, but some months after, on my making the acquaintance of the proprietor, he expressed much regret at my not having paid him a visit on this occasion.

After casting many a lingering look on the gorgeous scene we were now about to quit, we descended by a mountain track, and in a short time found ourselves following a level road, which was well watered by numerous springs, forming various canals, that bubbled and sparkled in the mid-day sun. We occasionally came across some giant rock that seemed to withstand our progress, and represented in its colossal proportions to our wonder or amusement, some strange device of ruin, bird, or animal. At last we entered a small *cabrada* formed by sloping downs, where we found an agreeable road that widened as we advanced, and furnished at its side an occasional pile of stones to announce to the weary traveller that another league was passed. After continuing

along this line for some time, the town of Santiago appeared in sight, and right glad we were to hail so welcome an appearance.

Ill-constructed walls and houses half-finished or deserted mark the approach to the Plaza or grand square, where all the drunkards and idlers of the town might be seen loitering about the wine shops, with which the place is well supplied.

The building most deserving of attention, as indeed it is in all these towns, is the church, with its adjoining residence for the parish priest. These, in fact, bear no proportion to the other edifices, which are for the most part as wretched-looking habitations as can well be imagined. The church lords it with princely sway, and in many cases is the sole depository of all rule, temporal as well as spiritual. But it is generally the case that these localities boast of a governor,—who is some ignorant tool of the government, a post-master, and a *juz* or judge, the latter sometimes with hardly sufficient education to know how to write.

On my arrival here I sent for the governor, in order that he might provide me the necessary accommodation. He billeted me, much

to my disgust, in a dirty mud-house, which, however, I contrived to get cleaned; made enormous charges for all that I required, but greatly to my peace of mind, gave me as little of his company as I could well desire. My appetite had been too well sharpened by my mountain excursions not to find the roughest fare acceptable, and when at last I sought repose in my humble bed, fatigue made the night pass quickly away.

The first gleam of morning was the signal for departure. Our route this day was very uninteresting, and we toiled our weary way over barren tracts, with beds of saltpetre glittering in the sunbeams, threatening our eyes with *ophthalmia*, and breathing many of "the ills to which flesh is heir." The change of temperature at this lower level by no means suited my constitution, and scarcely recovered as I was from the effects of my late illness, I was more than ever desirous of pushing on to the next resting place. Under these circumstances I was more inattentive to the beauties of the road than I should otherwise have been; for the noble works of nature which prove so interesting and instructive to a contemplative mind, entirely lose their

charm, when anxiety or fatigue oppress the traveller; and it is curious, that the very fact which deprives a long journey of its character to please, only spins it out the more, and extends to a seemingly interminable length, a distance which would be passed over with alacrity and delight under more favorable conditions. At length the town of San Andres appeared in sight, and revived at the prospect of a close to our journey for the day, we quickened our pace, and soon found ourselves arrived at the church, a large and conspicuous building, whose dome, as seen in the distance, had formed the cheering landmark to guide our steps. Close to this spot rose an edifice of considerable dimensions, embracing three sides of a square. It presented externally an agreeable aspect, as the fresh coat of whitewash which had recently been bestowed upon it shone brightly in the sun's rays. An archway led to the *patio* or court-yard. We were here accosted by the master, who was also governor of the town, and whose urbanity and politeness made us soon feel ourselves quite at home, and disposed thoroughly to enjoy the comfortable quarters in which we had at last alighted. He showed us some ex-

cellent rooms, and the accommodation for man and beast seemed so superior to what we had of late been accustomed, that I determined to strike my tent here for a day or two. I opened my medicine chest and recruited my shattered nerves, which had yielded to the fatigue and mishaps I had so recently encountered. Our host, who combined in himself all the dignities of the place, such as governor, *alcalde* or magistrate, postmaster, *maitre de hotel*, and forage vender, exerted himself with all becoming hospitality in providing us with dinner, and various luxuries which were as necessary as they were palatable. Having done full justice to his bill of fare, I prepared for a ramble over the town, or, as we should in England more properly term it, hamlet, though it aspires to the more distinguished cognomen of a *pueblo*. I soon procured a large supply of oranges, notwithstanding their being then out of season, and greatly relished so great a dainty. After passing a couple of days in this inviting locality, I found my energies returning; and well stocked with a fresh supply of health and vigour, I started for the puente de Nasacara.

There was a great sameness in the route for a considerable distance, as in nearing the horizon, which continually bounded the prospect, the unvarying interminable plains of the South seemed still spread out before us. Ever and anon, our attention was called to herd after herd of llamas, as the pipe of the Indian drover occasionally struck upon the ear. On reaching a slight elevation, the circuitous course of a great river was plainly discernible; and the heather, where partridges, disturbed at our approach, had hitherto remained concealed, appeared all at once to teem with life. The air at intervals was darkened by clouds of wild-fowl performing their evolutions, and accompanying their gyrations by their discordant screech, as they were by turns disturbed from their hiding-places in the creeks and gullies, or the bosom of the flowing waters. Gradually the road approached the river we had previously seen; and ere we arrived at its banks, we found ourselves in the town of Nasacara, consisting of a number of houses, among which are some very respectable edifices, in comparison with those in the generality of towns of this description. This

exception is accounted for by the fact, that Nasacara is the point at which takes place the transit of merchandise from Europe to Bolivia, there being here the great toll or ferry over the river. As we approached its margin, I was struck with the remarkable appearance of activity and bustle which characterized the scene. A large concourse of Indians—men, women, and children—were here assembled, and the river was literally covered with *bolsas*. This mystery was soon unravelled. The heavy rains, that had prevailed for some time in the mountain districts, had deluged the plains beneath, and so swollen the river, that it had broken its bounds, swept away the bridge, and for a time interrupted all commerce. The Governor, a colonel in the army of the Republic, who was also lessee of the toll,* had summoned to his presence under this emergency the *caciques* of the district, to consider what means should be adopted to remedy this untoward occurrence. The latter, who entered

* The bridge of Nasacara, like many others, is let out at a fixed rent, on condition of its being kept in thorough repair. Large fortunes are often realized by persons in speculations of this kind.

cordially into his plans for preventing, as much as possible, the certain check to commerce that seemed likely to arise from the catastrophe, called together their respective bands of Indians, and ordered them to set to work and provide reeds and other necessaries for the construction of *bolsas*. These were soon got ready on a great lake in the interior; and when the whole number was completed, they were brought to the site of the demolished bridge, and there launched upon the water. The day of my arrival was that on which all these great preparations were finally concluded.

It was regarded as a *fête* of an unusual kind, and the occasion called forth great excitement and general rejoicing. On sending a servant across the river to the Governor, I was immediately provided with *bolsas* for myself and party, and we were soon afterwards conducted to a very comfortable house, where we found every accommodation we could desire. The Governor, a gentleman in the prime of life, who combined in himself the several characteristics of the farmer and the soldier, received me with the greatest courtesy, and did all in his power to make

me feel welcome. After partaking of an excellent dinner, and discussing some bottles of wine which I had produced from my stock, we at length parted on the very best of terms.

Early next morning I was aroused by my host to breakfast, and to witness the construction of the new bridge. On looking on the river, its banks presented the appearance of an immense encampment. Thousands of Indians, men, women, and children, were scattered in groups for a considerable distance, and the whole scene was enlivened by the bright sunshine of a tropical morning. The river itself was no less teeming with life, for hundreds of *bolsas* covering its surface were crowded with a living freight awaiting with anxious ardour the important ceremony of the coming day. These *bolsas*, not unlike the small galleys of the ancients, or the gondolas of the modern Venetians, were gaily decorated with garlands of flowers and green boughs, which, together with the gaudy trappings of the Indians, gave the whole affair a very festive character. After the Governor and myself, with a few of the principal persons of the place, had made our

appearance, the signal was given for commencing operations. On either side of the river large buttresses were made, which were connected by two large hide cables of prodigious strength attached to gigantic stones in the centre of each buttress, over which large stones were then piled to a great height. These preparations were completed with great ceremony and amidst general shoutings from the assembled multitudes. The fleet of *balsas* then moved gracefully along the water, until every boat had taken up its station and was securely attached to the cables above, thus forming the basement of the bridge. Over this were placed logs of wood, which were firmly tied to the ropes, and boughs of dry wood and brushwood being placed over them and covered with earth, a tolerably solid road was formed, naturally subject to a certain vibration on its being passed over. Everything being concluded, the festivities of the day commenced. These were liberally kept up by the proprietor of the toll, whose bounty on these occasions in the supply of food and drink outsteps all bounds, so that the day's proceedings generally end in a grand debauch.

I was informed that the singing, dancing, and games of this rude people ere they finally dispersed and returned again to their mountain homes, sometimes lasted so long as several days.

After being an eye-witness of this singular spectacle I returned home with my host and his staff, and, having partaken of an early dinner, bade farewell to all friends at the bridge of Nasacara. The road this day combined the same features of country as we had already passed. Ridge after ridge of hills, *cabrada*, valley and glen, rivers and tributary streams, all perceptibly inclining to a lower level of plains beneath, by turns diversified the landscape; whilst stretched far in advance, the snowy *cordon* of the Andes, rising in terrific grandeur along two-thirds of the horizon, formed the sublimest background to the scene that imagination can possibly conceive. The approach to a great city was soon plainly indicated by the numerous herds of laden llamas which we met on the way, and the various parties of Indians with their *mamitas*, each of whom carried a chubby child suspended gracefully across the back, driving their donkeys loaded

with vegetables, fruits, or wares, to the market of La Paz.

The ride appeared to us particularly long and tedious, from the fact of our continually finding ourselves further from our journey's end than we imagined. A knot of trees near some large rock, or a bright embankment in the distance, deceived us into the expectation that we were nearing some dwelling, and possibly the wished-for post-house, where we anticipated some rest; but we were doomed to continual disappointment. At length, on winding round the brow of a hill, the Port of Bentella came suddenly into view. This is the first port out of La Paz, and consists of several mud thatched buildings of one room each, situated on a square *patio* or yard. I sent for the master of the post, and making a selection of the best apartment, I had my goods and chattels safely stowed away therein, and took care that the animals should be well provided with fodder, to fortify them for a respectable entry into La Paz on the following day.

Whilst thus engaged, the trampling of horses' feet was heard, and immediately two gentlemen, well mounted, both horse and

rider being decked out in the fanciful costume of the country, made their appearance. With an assumption of importance and the *sans façon* of Bolivians in general, they dismounted and gave their orders in a peremptory tone. They had taken possession of my room, and were proceeding to have their luggage conveyed there, when I arrived upon the scene to stop all further interference with my arrangements. My outward man must have struck terror to these grandees, for I found that my accoutrements were such as to command respect.

Judge, gentle reader, how they could resist a slouched hat and tassels, with loose handkerchief around the neck, *à la brigand*, a red sash tied round the waist, *polinas*, pistols, knife, with a double-barrelled gun in hand. Emboldened by the impression I seemed to have made, I accosted them thus: "Gentlemen, you doubtless know the rule of the road, first come first served; you will have the kindness, therefore, to shift your quarters and leave me in possession of mine." The tone in which this was spoken, and some previous information which they appeared to have gleaned, set them on their

best manners. They not only acquiesced in all that I required, but endeavoured to make themselves exceedingly agreeable, and having in a very short space of time concocted some tea—mixed *aquardiente*, a beverage much used on the road, we sat down to the repast, and I soon gained the information, that I was expected at La Paz, and that apartments were in readiness for me in the house of a well-known gentleman of the town. A long conversation upon the general news of the day, particularly the late revolution at La Paz, after having despatched a good meal, and partaken of sundry bottles of excellent sherry, to which were added brandy punch and cigars, put me in a very good humour, and thoroughly disposed me for a sound night's rest. On rising next morning I found that my friends of the previous night had taken their departure. I therefore leisurely set out for the city of La Paz.

The hilly country gradually subsided into something more of the character of a prairie, and afterwards we entered upon the *pampas*, stretching far and wide to the very foot of the mighty range that bounded the horizon. The bright sun, as it marked its upward

course in the heavens, shed a warm and congenial glow upon the scene. The sparkling dew glistened on the gemmed surface of the fresh earth, and the partridge, disturbed by the foot of man, fluttered from its hiding place to find its heathered shelter close at hand. Nature was indeed most beautiful, and seen to every possible advantage on the opening of such a day as this.

After advancing for some time through a succession of the most interesting scenery, and at length descending a range of hills, we arrived at the Punas, 12,000 or 13,000 feet above the level of the sea. As we approached Vicachia, which is situate about nine leagues from La Paz, I was witness of that curious optical phenomenon termed the *mirage*. It was about eleven o'clock in the morning, and a great mist overspread the lake. The eye, wandering from object to object as they appeared indistinctly through the haze, seemed to detect lakes of prodigious size, which lost themselves in the heavens above, and there, suspended as it were in mid-air, but inverted, might plainly have been seen houses, trees, mules with their drivers, in fact, a perfect reflection of the landscape

beneath. So extraordinary was the sight—and the fact of all the objects being upside down, which should at once have suggested that it was all the effect of some optical illusion, made it the more strange to my astonished senses—that I could hardly persuade myself that I was awake, and not indulging in the visions of some Arabian tale. Gradually the reality declared itself, and we found that what we had been gazing at with wonder was the exact transcript of an Indian village, surrounded with well-cultivated fields of waving maize, which now came forth full into view. I stopped my horse to admire the extensive landscape and watch the industrious operations of the swarthy denizens of a southern clime. Men, women, and children were busily occupied in the exercise of their daily labour, which they prosecuted without interruption, even under the scorching influence of a tropical sun.

At this moment my *herrero* rode up to me, accompanied by a comely Indian girl, who, through my interpreter, conveyed to me the request to partake of some *chichia*, as an offering for an abundant harvest, at the

same time wishing me a prosperous and happy journey. So unexpected an act of generosity and kindness on the part of these aborigines struck me very forcibly, and I was about to open my purse-strings to acknowledge the favour, when my amiable *Indiana* abruptly withdrew, assuring me that what she had given she gave freely from the heart, and without any idea of remuneration.

As we advanced along the plain, numerous droves of llamas, mules, and asses bearing different kinds of wares and merchandise, proclaimed our approach to the busy haunts of men. All of a sudden I found myself on the edge of a precipice, and, looking down from the eminence on which I stood, I saw before me, spread out as on a panorama, and imbedded in one of the loveliest valleys I ever beheld, the beautiful city of La Paz. Viewed from this elevation, the plan of the city, laid out after the fashion of Spanish towns, is distinctly seen. The arrangement of the streets, intersecting each other at right angles, is plainly recognised, and the whole appeared to the eye like a miniature model, or like Gulliver's city of

Lilliput with its pigmy inhabitants. The undulatory nature of the site has bestowed its character on the various streets, which rise and fall with the form of the ground on which they are built.

The general effect of the whole city laid beneath me as seen from this spot was most extraordinary. There was bustle and activity, but the distance had reduced the several actors in the scene to the dimensions of mere dots, and I seemed to be looking on a coloured map rather than the actual appearance of the reality itself. The *sierras* on either side heightened the charm of the representation, coloured as they were with the various tints of the rainbow, owing to the great quantity of metal imbedded in their bosom assuming in turns every shade of crimson, yellow, blue, brown, neutral tint, and black. Wherever slopes are met with, cultivation may be found, as the Indians appear to delight in selecting such inaccessible spots as would not entice a stranger.

In the vicinity of the city are several small holes composed of a species of earth called *greda*, or, as we should perhaps call it, fuller's-earth. During the wet season, which

commences in November and ends in April, these heaps of marl, owing to the heavy rains which then prevail, assume every variety of shape, and convey, as it were, a representation of men, animals, obelisks, and gothic structures, so well delineated that it is at times difficult to imagine them any other than real works of art. The background to this grand and imposing picture is formed by the gigantic range of the Cordilleras as they appear in their bright garb of perennial snow, amongst which the towering Illemani, rising 24,000 feet above the level of the sea, lifts its lofty peak, and reflects the effulgence of the sun-lit heavens on its diadem of virgin white.

CHAPTER V.

Descent to La Paz—Arrival in the city—Its Plaza and adjacent streets—Market-place, Museum, and Courts of Law — Theatre — River—Alameda — Climate—Churches—Festival of Nuestra Senora de la Paz—del Rosario—Public entry of General Belza—Carnival—Festival de la Cruz—Revolution at La Paz.

On leaving the spot where I had the first view of La Paz, described in the last chapter, everything soon began to betoken the suburban approach. The Gareta—a barrier, or look-out house for passports, was soon reached. Then shops, stores, and buildings of various kinds, marked the vicinity of a large city; and soon afterwards we found ourselves on a slight elevation, in a kind of square, one side of which was formed by an ancient church, one of the primitive struc-

tures of the Jesuits. From this point we obtained a delightful view of this favoured city, which possesses all the advantages of the tropics, together with the freshness and salubrious air of a colder clime. Its proximity to the mountainous region of perpetual snow doubtless contributes to its refreshing coolness, as compared with many other places situated beneath a tropical sun; and the clouds which gather around the summits of this lofty range, as they discharge their deluge of waters over the devoted city, serve both to purify the atmosphere and fertilize the land. It was at such a moment that I approached it. Indications of a coming storm were everywhere abundant, and that unnatural stillness, in which Time appears to have outrun his glass—when "coming events cast their shadows before,"—prepared us for what was so certainly to follow.

Soon bursting their celestial barriers, heaven's high artillery rolled on in awful grandeur. The spirit of the tempest, with flaming sword, dashes to earth, as the whirlwinds in mighty columns of dust sweep along, from subterranean caverns, the trembling plains beneath. Then all is as sud-

denly hushed. This fierce warring of the elements has passed away as a dream, and nothing is to be now seen but the ethereal vault of heaven, where the noble condor, with outstretched pinion, soars in silent majesty in the broad expanse.

After witnessing so magnificent a scene, we pursued our course till we arrived at a convent, which stretches along one side of the way, and through whose numerous windows might be seen occasionally the heads of some of its unfortunate inmates, peering out, as it were, upon a world lost to them for ever. Passing on from thence, I soon arrived at the beautiful mansion of Senor Villareal, to whose kind offices and hospitality I am indebted for many an agreeable day spent in the city of La Paz. I was now domiciled in my resting-place, and had ample opportunity of reconnoitring the various points of attraction which the neighbourhood offered. As, altogether, I passed a space of two years in this city, I shall be able to give the reader a tolerable idea of it, and of the impressions produced by my sojourn there, without my narrative appearing in the form of a journal.

In the principal Plaza, or square, which is

composed wholly of granite, a very superb cathedral is now in process of erection. It is remarkable for its elegance and simplicity of style, and promises to be one of the most graceful, as well as most substantial edifices of the New World. Unless the work be prosecuted with greater spirit than has hitherto been evinced, generations to come will fail in seeing its completion; but it is to be hoped that the pride of possessing so splendid a work of art will stimulate to greater exertions in future.

Adjoining the cathedral is the Prefectura, or *Hôtel de Ville*, a building in the Swiss style of architecture. It is coloured yellow, but is by no means a disagreeable object. At the opposite angle of the Plaza are a number of arcades. It is here that the English apothecary, Mr. Marchant, resides. He is a man of the profoundest erudition, besides being an excellent linguist, but is at the same time somewhat celebrated for his strange eccentricities. The other inhabitants of this quarter are chiefly notaries, writers, and such like.

At the termination of the arcades there is what is denominated the *Capella*, or chapel,

which on some occasions is used for the purposes of religious worship, but is at the same time devoted to many other objects. State prisoners are here confined, as well as malefactors, previous to their execution. It is also used as a Chamber of Deputies during the Congress; likewise as a school, and the place where examinations are held for the distribution of degrees and diplomas. The remainder of the Plaza presents nothing remarkable, (unless we except a tolerable house, which once served as a residence for a former president,) it being chiefly occupied by shops and a number of very inferior stores.

The general characteristics of the place are heavy carved balconies, painted green after the Limanian fashion. In the centre of the quadrangle is an elegant stone fountain, exhibiting workmanship of a very high order, in the style of the French school of sculptural design. The architect of this work, and the designer of most of the modern public buildings of the Republic, is a Senor Nuncy, a gentleman of decided talent, who was sent by the late president, at the expense of the Government, to Italy, France, and England, for the purposes of study, and

who availed himself so well of these advantages that the fruits of his genius will bear a favourable comparison with the best works of the artists of these several countries.

Leading into the grand Plaza is the Calle de Comercio, which forms the end of a long series of streets from the heights to the city, and which constitute the principal entrance into it from that quarter. The shops which it contains are of a very ordinary character, both as respects outward appearance and internal convenience; but nevertheless they often contain valuable stock to a very large amount, consisting mostly of English and French goods. There are several commercial houses here engaged in a large way of business. The principal are those carried on by Senors Zabula, Grenier, Masoer, Sainza, Aramago, Loruco y Hermanos, Portales, and Stokes.

Of private mansions, there are several which merit notice. Those of Senors Villamil, Bollivian, Santa Cruz, Medina, and Grenier, are among the best. The market-place, during the former part of the day, presents a very lively scene. Hundreds of Indian women and children are to be seen

squatted on the ground and selling their provisions, consisting of various wares, mining implements, fruits, flowers, and vegetables; and in the sombre attire of their habitual mourning, (said to be for their departed Incas,) forming a marked contrast with the gay and pretty Creole women who come to make their purchases, dressed out in their gaudy petticoats of various hues. By the way, those who are admirers of dark eyes must be on their guard against the seductive influence of these attractions on the part of the latter.

Then the attention is diverted to the water-carriers, both male and female, passing to and from the fountain, and bending under the weight of their huge *contaros*. Occasionally the scene is varied by a number of fat *padres*, accompanied by little boys, chanting as they march in procession in honour of some great image of a saint, which is decked out with all the finery they can heap upon it. The tinkling of a bell warns the stranger quietly to withdraw from a too near approach to the important ceremonial, or otherwise he will find that he must submit, in common with others, to the usual reverence which is

exacted, according to the peculiarities of the country.

The museum, library, and courts of civil law, are contained in one large building. In the former are to be found several extraordinary and antiquated specimens of the human form. They consist of mummies which have been dug out of the ruins of the cities of the Incas, and are in a remarkable state of preservation. There is also an extremely rare collection of Indian vases and earthen utensils, as well as some unique specimens of arms, and various ornaments of singular make. The room in which these are preserved is hung round with a numerous collection of portraits, representing certain Spanish grandees who were in command of La Paz—such as Oruro, Cochabamba, Potosi, Sucre,—no doubt of great interest to the historians and biographers of the country, though anything but pleasing to the eye of a connoisseur in works of art. The collection of minerals is very valuable, but, for want of labels, the public are debarred from the instruction and interest they would otherwise afford. The same remark applies to that part of the building which is devoted to

natural history. There are here preserved various specimens of animals and birds of an extremely rare character, but the advantages of their being assembled together are quite neutralized, owing to the entire absence of all arrangement and classification.

The law officers, judges, counsellors, and attorneys or notaries, in this part of the world, are, without doubt, a most favoured race, since before they undertake any of their duties, all payments accruing to them must be paid in advance. The spirit of litigation and chicanery in this law-beridden country, seems to have reached the acme of absurdity. There is scarcely a family or even an individual in respectable society, who is not involved, more or less, in some one or more lawsuits. The great power which the tribunals exert, is maintained chiefly by the extreme intricacy of their interpretations. Bribes are certainly resorted to, till the least wealthy of the parties is forced to submit simply from the want of means. An extraordinary case came under my knowledge, which I consider worthy of insertion here.

A gentleman belonging to one of the first

families in the Republic purchased a large and valuable estate, estimated at from 70,000 to 80,000 dollars. He undertook to hand over this sum of money in certain stipulated payments to various parties to whom the estate had been bequeathed by the deceased proprietor. In consideration of his high repute and general character for probity, he obtained possession by fixing a day for the first instalment. This point gained, he clandestinely presents 100 dollars to some individual to start a claim to the property. This has the desired effect; lawsuit after lawsuit follows. Months and almost years roll away before justice is done to the rightful owners. They at length, at a great pecuniary sacrifice, obtain a judgment in their favour; when, lo and behold! another claimant appears. The former judgment is reversed. The time, anxiety, and expense by which it was carried on are found to have been entirely thrown away, and a like process must again be instituted.

By following up this system the fortunate possessor had enjoyed the proceeds of the estate for at least seven years, and quite unmolested in his nefarious robbery; for, by

the use of a powerful interest, he had obtained from the courts the appointment to an office by which he became the deposit or trust-holder of all properties and rents. This hopeless cause so reduced the circumstances of the rightful—though, by a legal quibble, not the *lawful*—owners of the estate, that they were unable, at length, to furnish the necessary funds for the furtherance of their claims; and, after seven years of fruitless litigation, the present occupant was left in undisputed possession of a property, thus fraudulently acquired, worth at the present date at least 100,000 dollars.

The theatre is a respectable and commodious building, possessing four tiers of boxes, which, as far as can be discerned by the feeble aid of mere tallow candles, appear to be very decently decorated. On one of my visits to this place of amusement it was crowded by a large proportion of the *élite* of the city. The house presented a perfect galaxy of beauty, as the lovely *senoritas*, arrayed in all the charms that nature or art could give, successively caught the eye, and a great profusion of gold lace which glittered on the persons of many a military

caballero added brilliancy to the scene. The piece selected for the occasion was from the English *repertoire*. It consisted of the play of Catherine Howard, in eight acts, admirably translated into the magnificent Castilian dialect, and tolerably well sustained.

I began to imagine, when the play was half over, and my interest was really aroused, that it was the custom in these parts to take a siesta between the acts, for the candles went completely out; and when, at the command of the manager, the chandelier had been lowered, and a new light had been thrown upon the subject, it was discovered that a shower of grease had taken place on the poor unfortunates who had taken their position in the pit of the theatre. They were well bespattered, much to their annoyance, although they had previously been too much carried away by the interest of the representation to notice the gradual droppings from the guttering candles to which they had hitherto been exposed. Of course the necessity for replenishing them gave rise to a painful delay, and when light and order were again restored, we found that the unexpected interlude, of which we had all, more or less,

been unwilling spectators, had not left us in a suitable mood for properly enjoying the remainder of a dismal tragedy.

The city of La Paz is watered by the river Chillapampa, which, after passing by Potopolo, is divided into two branches, one of which winds a circuitous course through the valley of La Paz, presenting rare and romantic beauties, whilst the other, under the designation of the *Rio Della Caxa Del Agua*, passes through a third of the city, and forms a most picturesque feature in the landscape. Large masses of granite, which in the course of many ages have detached themselves from the surrounding hills, now partially block up the bed of the river, and give rise to a number of cascades, where the impetuous and foaming waters give life and animation to this charming country. During several days in the week hundreds of washerwomen are to be seen following their avocation in this romantic spot, and drying the sundry articles of dress on which they have been exercising their customary labours, in the cool and refreshing breezes which are to be found in this neighbourhood.

Near the river is the Prado or Alameda,

a delightful walk and place of recreation, for which the inhabitants of La Paz are indebted to the interest and exertions of General José Bollivian. This calm and quiet retreat consists of a level garden, agreeably situated, intersected by a variety of pleasant walks, and furnished in all directions with stone benches for the accommodation of visitors. The lovely rose-plant here attains the height of twelve or fourteen feet, yielding flowers during two-thirds of the year, and impregnating the air with the fragrance of their delicious odour. Nothing can be more delightful than a stroll in this delightful locality, where art and nature vie with each other to embellish the enchanting scene.

After passing through the Alameda, you arrive at a bridge which crosses a small stream running into the river. Well-cultivated fields are seen on both sides of the road, but more especially on that on which the river is situate, and which gradually slopes towards the centre of the beautiful valley, in whose bosom a luxurious vegetation, and every species of tropical fruit and flower reminds the traveller of the favoured land on which he is treading. On the other

side, where the ground is more elevated, the husbandman finds that he is amply repaid for the little labour he bestows upon the soil; and the fields, well stocked with produce, show that he is not backward to take advantage of the many facilities for culture which it offers. It is on this elevated site that the parochial church of San Pedro stands, as well as the Indian village surrounding it, called San Francisco, and which gave birth to the adjoining city of La Paz.

One might naturally imagine, from the geographical bearings of this country, that excessive heat would prevail in many parts of it; but this is not the case. The land is so raised above the level of the sea,—in many instances so much as 11,000, 12,000, or even 13,000 feet,—that the air is exceedingly rarified, and the disease called the *soroche*, which consists in a difficulty of respiration when undertaking the least exertion, is extremely common, and much experienced by strangers, when exposed to the fatigue of ascending or descending the hilly streets of the capital. The mornings and evenings are extremely cold and bracing, especially during the winter months. Ice is generally found in the streets

in the morning, but soon disappears as the sun rises in the heavens.

On account of the great elevation of the land, and the rarefaction of its atmosphere, no noxious or troublesome insects exist in the city. It seems to have had the advantage of a second St. Patrick to destroy all its vermin; and, on retiring to rest, there are no fearful forebodings of a nightly attack from those tiny invaders of our repose, which in many countries detract so much from our peace and happiness. Here a bed is indeed a bed of roses, and a luxury we are never sure of meeting with elsewhere. When indulging in so indispensable a contribution to my undisturbed repose as an untenanted bed, where "free from the torments of a back-biting world," I could repose in security, I have learnt duly to appreciate so desirable an exemption from those nightly discomforts, to which other and more civilized countries are, for the most part, unfortunately doomed.

La Paz contains several churches, which are generally unfinished. In fact, few churches or public buildings are ever completed, the towers of the churches, particularly, presenting a very ruinous appearance,

when perhaps the remainder of the structure is brought to a tolerable state of perfection. The old cathedral of San Domingo is no exception to this rule, and even in that part of it which is now finished, can lay little claim to anything like architectural beauty, built, as it is, in a kind of bastard order, a mixture of Italian and Moresque. The doorways and the *façade* generally are of this latter order, whilst the tower or belfry partakes more of a Roman character.

The interior consists of a nave and two aisles, the grand altar being placed immediately under the dome, whilst chapels lead out from the aisles on either side. On high days and holidays, a most impressive effect can be produced by a gorgeous display of rich plate; and, on these occasions, the church ornaments and decorations are seen to great advantage, as they glitter in the brilliant light of an endless profusion of wax tapers. Behind the high altar is situate the organ, which is usually accompanied by an orchestra, in which wind-instruments painfully predominate, everything being blown out of tune by their exclusive and domineering sounds.

In the choir are some very fine voices, although the boys are so strenuous in the exercise of their duties, and scream to such a pitch, that one quite trembles lest they should do themselves some bodily injury in their exertions to do themselves and their music justice. There is a great number of cabinet paintings in this church, one of which particularly attracted my attention, as being a *fac simile* of one of Rubens' pictures in the National Gallery in London. Most of them are evidently bad copies from the old masters; but, doubtless, answer every purpose of decorating the building, and stimulating the devotion of those who resort thither with the object of worship. The friars of the Dominican Order are generally very portly-looking gentlemen, elegantly dressed in the finest black, carrying large hats upon their heads, and exhibiting on their persons gold buckles and ruffles of lace. In appearance they are scrupulously neat, and are to be met with in the best society, being generally persons of the very first education.

The best church in La Paz is possessed by the monks of the Franciscan Order. It is built of stone, and more substantially than is

generally the case in these countries. The bell-tower, as usual, is not completed. As regards the internal arrangements of the edifice, it differs very little from the cathedral. The Church of the Recoletas is more remarkable for its neatness and cleanliness, than for any pretence at splendour or showy decoration. The religious order to which it belongs is composed of Spanish or Italian monks, or such as have resided at Rome for many years. They subsist principally by charity, and are the most industrious, devoted, and exemplary of their class. In my account of the revolution at La Paz, I shall more fully touch upon the merits of these good men, whose simple faith and manners form a pleasing picture in the annals of monastic life. In the churches of La Merced, San Pedro, Santo Agostino, and the several communities attached to them, there is little worthy of remark.

Besides monasteries, there are also here several nunneries. Of course the latter are kept more secluded, and protected from the profane gaze of the curious stranger. Yet, through a double grating, the first of wickerwork, the second of a more substantial cha-

racter, which divided the church of the nunnery of Las Concepidas, I contrived to be a witness of some of their religious services. In a chapel of their own, divided into two stories, appeared the nuns, facing the grand altar. The younger portion of them, or the novices, were stationed on the upper platform, and were occupied in singing and chaunting to the accompaniment of an old harpsichord, to which was added a number of little drums of the size of a cocoa-nut, producing the most ludicrous effect imaginable. On great occasions the church is literally crowded with plate and ornaments, and report says that the sisters are immensely rich, being proprietors of numberless large farms. I can easily credit this, if one may judge of their opulence, as we do of that of the world in general, by the table they keep; for, having occasion to pass daily by a side-door belonging to the establishment, I was forcibly reminded of Landseer's admirable picture of the Abbey Porch in the olden time, as I witnessed the heavily-laden mules stored with a plentiful supply of previsions of every kind for the fortunate inmates.

The convent of Santa Tereza contains a

very strict order of Carmelites, who are so entirely secluded from the world as not even to be visible during divine service. The church and nunnery attached to it occupy a complete square. Though these sisters have so entirely bade adieu to the world as to have renounced all society but that of their fellow nuns, in order, according to their mistaken ideas, the better to devote themselves to the service of God; they nevertheless at times leave the sacred precincts of their asylum, but then they are always securely shrouded from the vulgar gaze of the world without. They are transported to various parts of the city in a sedan chair, which is decked out with white—fit emblem of virgin purity,—and ornamented with flowers and all the jewels and other ornaments which they possess. On entering the convent they are not expected to come empty handed. For three consecutive days they have to pay the dowry of 2,000 dollars, which secures to them this retreat for life.

I saw several lovely and blooming creatures initiated into the mysteries of this sisterhood, and taking upon themselves the vows by which they voluntarily surrendered

their liberty, and immured themselves for life in a living grave. It was a painful thing to witness, and extracted from me a sigh, as I lost sight of them for ever. There are churches with hospitals attached to them, which are very clean and comfortable, and afford the best medical attendance to be found in a new state. That of San Juan de Dios is for the reception of male, and that of La Capella de San Rafael for the reception of female patients. The Recogidas is a convent of a religious order, into which foundlings are taken and educated. It is a most excellent institution, and founded on the true spirit of charity.

The outward observances of the Roman Catholic Church are here mixed up with many barbarous customs and relics of paganism; so much so, that her religious ceremonials lose much of their impressiveness and solemnity. I can quite imagine that, immediately after the conquest of this country, it was considered a wise policy on the part of the church, to allow a certain licence to the untutored aborigines, that by degrees, and imperceptibly, they might become subject to her laws and edicts. But after so many

centuries, during which her rule has been recognised, when her doctrines are so well understood, and the principles of Christianity are duly appreciated, I am at a loss to conceive the propriety of retaining such an evident infusion of barbarous rites into her religious ceremonies as are occasionally witnessed. All important processions, fêtes, and other like observances, are accompanied by large parties of Indians, who are dressed up in the most fantastic and grotesque manner; taking part in some grave ceremonials, with their bodies painted, and their faces masked, and mounted on wooden horses, bulls, dragons, and altogether presenting as ludicrous an effect as it is possible to conceive. On what principle the reverend fathers of the church tolerate such absurd puerilities, I cannot imagine.

It is evident that the spread of education and sound doctrine is wholly incompatible with the practice, at least, of any church that sanctions such degrading superstitions, and it is a proof that little has been seriously done to enlighten the minds of these savage tribes, and to imbue them with just ideas of our more refined religion, when we see them

thus taking delight in these ridiculous exhibitions.

During my stay at La Paz, I had many opportunities of witnessing these displays of religious zeal. One of the most important is that which takes place on the festival of *La Señora de la Paz;* and I will now endeavour to give the reader an idea of the singular manner in which it is celebrated. The morning of Wednesday, the 24th of January, 1849, it being the day which is peculiarly dedicated to the lady patroness of the city, was ushered in by the sound of Indian pipe and drum proceeding from every quarter, and awakening the slumbering inhabitants to the consciousness that the *Caciques* were collecting their several bands.

During many days previous great exertions had been made in the erection of scaffoldings in front of the old cathedral. These were from thirty to forty feet high, and covered with crimson cloth, and were abundantly decorated with pictures of saints, framed in silver, forks, spoons, dishes, jugs, and all sorts of domestic utensils, of the same precious metal; images, garlands, drapery, together with fruits of every variety, from

the water-melon to the fragrant pine-apple; flowers of every description, and of every hue; vegetables of all sorts and sizes, from the formidable pumpkin to the unpresuming radish, all tastefully arranged around silver, plaster, and wooden images of saints and angels, which cut rather a ludicrous figure as they peered forth from amidst such a profusion of dainty fare. Within the building, the various altars were adorned in like manner with everything calculated to add to the gaiety of the scene.

The neighbourhood was filled with roving parties of Indians, attired in the peculiar costume of their several tribes; some of them, both men and women, following the fashion of the Peruvians, carried crowns of variegated feathers on their heads, leopard skins thrown over their shoulders, and their bodies decked with kirtles of feathers. With bows and arrows in their hands, and dancing unwearyedly to the rude sounds of their native music, these unpolished sons of nature were to be met with in all parts of the city for hours, and failed not to excite attention in their efforts to celebrate the day. Some parties appeared in long robes of white, neatly

plaited round the body, with their faces blackened, and wearing broad belts of variegated feathers of exquisite workmanship—others with lappels or wings of the same material — the head-dress being a sort of diadem, with one feather at the back. Each person carried a Pandean pipe, which in some cases was of large, in others of small dimensions—but the combined effect of them, though the intonations were in rather a melancholy strain, was anything but disagreeable or inharmonious.

Some of the most eccentric performers on this occasion wore large cocked-hats, several yards in extent, made of paper, and trimmed with variegated feathers, the aforesaid plume in the centre of colossal dimensions, forming a conspicuous feature; their faces wearing masks, representing the heads of wolves, bears, or monkeys. Others appeared habited in old court suits, or faded regimentals, with *epaulettes* of feathers, and mounted on imitation buffaloes, leopards, and dragons, having their legs hidden by a kind of petticoat. In their hands they carried small looking-glasses, in which they continually affected to admire themselves, and they pro-

duced much merriment by their antics and gambols, occasionally rushing at the people with their horns—then formally and with much ceremony joining the musicians and dancers.

At night large bonfires illuminate the neighbourhood, and a general fire of squibs and crackers takes place, until the actors in this strange scene, overcome with drink, reel, quarrel, fight, and tumble home. The general effect at night is much heightened by the numerous lamps and lanterns with which the several altars of the church are decorated. The amusements peculiar to this festival generally last between two and three days, when, to those who love quiet and decorum, it is agreeable to find that order is again restored.

Similar scenes to that above described take place on the day set apart in honour of the patron saint of the Indians—La Senora del Rosario. This day, throughout the whole of the Bolivian and Peruvian Republics, is observed with great pomp, and, as usual, with a vast amount of feasting and drunkenness. The grand muster on the occasion, and the religious ceremonies connected with it, take

place at one of the primitive churches of the city, called Chillapampa. From this point the procession starts, after being marshalled in due order; the streets along which it passes being tastefully decorated with garlands of flowers, which hang in festoons across. At certain intervals altars are erected; and the great mass of draperies, which are suspended from the numerous balconies which line the streets, produce a very striking effect. For the most part, the costume of the Indians, together with the music and other accompaniments, resembles what has already been described. There were, however, so many remarkable additions, when I was fortunate enough to be a spectator of these important solemnities, that I will attempt to describe them.

The attire for the head which was worn by the first party, was of a most remarkable character. The usual head-dress of feathers was fixed on a kind of wicker frame-work, and the union of a number of these formed a square of many yards in extent, producing, as the wearers of them moved backwards or forwards, according to the dance, the appearance of a house or town being carried

aloft on their heads. The second party advanced two and two, and were dressed in red, blue, and yellow frocks, trimmed with fur or feathers. On their heads they wore curious little caps of the same materials, from underneath which appeared masks of cats, monkeys, negroes, which, by their grotesqueness and singularity, occasioned much diversion to the bystanders. Some of them carried in their hands enormous postilion's whips, whilst others were to be seen in kid gloves, bearing before them accordions, from which, as the procession advanced, they from time to time struck appropriate chords. These last, as I afterwards learnt, were young gentlemen of the town, who took a delight in contributing to the gaiety of the scene by taking a part as actors in it.

In the midst of all these buffooneries was the appearance of an angel, which soon turned out to be of real flesh and blood. It was admirably represented by an Indian child, who was covered with jewels, and adorned with wings and feathers, according to the recognised description of this species of gentry. Next came, but at a respectable distance, well suited to her dignity and

importance, the ponderous image of the lady-saint, borne aloft by a crowd of Indian devotees. She was literally studded with pearls and jewels, and the bier which supported her appeared covered with roses and candles, adding materially to the brilliancy of the scene. As she slowly advanced along, everything was well contrived to do her honour, and from the hands of dolls and angels, by means of hidden strings, little baskets of rose-leaves were emptied on her precious head. Of course, when the ceremony was over, the festivities of the day were far from concluded; and in all parts of the town large parties of Indians might be seen till a very late hour, dancing, fighting, and reeling, under the influence of the too free potations in honour of their patron saint.

As in other places under the sway of the Roman Catholic Church, the carnival is here also an occasion of great hilarity and mirth. In this year, however, the week during which it was held was of more than ordinary importance, for on the Saturday preceding its commencement, the public entry of General Isidore Belza into the city gave rise to the usual demonstrations of rejoicing, in

honour of his successful triumphs. It was on the occasion of his return from dispersing his enemies, and consolidating his position as President of the Republic, that he was now about to enter the city as a conqueror; and the excitement which prevailed was intense. The morning proved unusually propitious, and the streets exhibited a very gay appearance, as the worthy citizens, eager to evince their respect for the hero of the day, thronged every part.

The houses, over each of which waved the Bolivian banner, were gaily decorated with rich draperies; and the various balconies and windows were crowded with elegantly dressed ladies, gentlemen, and children; all exhibiting the greatest interest to witness the animated scene. Large parties of Indians dressed after the extraordinary fashion of their country, and headed by their *Caciques*, holding in their hands staves, headed with silver suns, danced, capered, and caracoled to the accompaniment of their strange music, as the advancing battalions told of the near approach of the mighty conqueror. The streets were crowded with the most motley group ever beheld; including

Spaniards, Bolivians, Argentines, foreigners of all sorts—Choloes and Indians, as well as mulattoes and blacks of every cast and hue, which compose the Republic.

Here, as in most cases on the advance of an army in time of peace, came large parties of females and servants, accompanied by masses of multifarious luggage. The women, hardy amazons of their sex, appeared riding their beasts astride, without showing any qualms of delicacy; children, in some cases, being attached to their backs. Of the *mozos*, or servants, some were mounted, but the major part of them travelled on foot, in company with jaded animals of every description, from the warlike charger, to the patient ass, all bending under the heavy load of every variety of precious cargo—consisting of trunks, bedding, wines, guns, swords, cocked hats, pots, pans, parrots, and pet dogs; in fact, everything connected with the pride and circumstance of glorious war.

After this motley group had wended its way through the crowd, the distant sounds of martial music bespoke the near approach of the great object of that day's attraction. This signal of the hero's advance was hailed

by all with the greatest enthusiasm, but more particularly by scores of dirty little boys, who had been informed that some thousands of dollars were to be thrown to the crowd. The chaos of sounds at this moment was deafening, as the entire populace manifested their delight by a succession of loud and prolonged shouts. The native Indians were not backward on the occasion, but redoubled their exertions in the dance, or more vigorously made use of their drums and pipes to herald the event, to which all eyes were now directed.

As the military bands advanced, windows and balconies became agitated with their living masses; hats and handkerchiefs waved in the air, and the lovely hand of many a beautiful *senorita* held aloft roses or choice flowers, ready to be scattered on the victor's head as he passed along. At length, some distance in advance of his staff, mounted on a superb black charger, magnificently caparisoned, appeared the General, a fine-looking man of swarthy complexion, well attired in a Field-Marshal's uniform; and, with hat in hand, bowing gracefully to the fair ladies, in acknowledgment of the fragrant *bouquets*

they were showering upon him. Next came the remainder of the brilliant *cortège*, including the General's staff, and a cavalcade of the most opulent personages of the city, who had gone out to meet him. These were followed by his body-guard of cuirassiers, lancers, two military bands, regiments of the line, and cavalry.

The General, having taken possession of a mansion prepared for him in the Calle de Comercio, the proceedings of this day's pageant were terminated in the evening by many dinners and balls, which took place to commemorate the event. The next day being Sunday, there was a grand religious thanksgiving at the cathedral, which was attended by all the officers and functionaries, together with the military corps and bands, with great parade.

As the carnival this year fell on a Sunday, that day was merely distinguished from ordinary Sundays by the religious solemnities, just alluded to, in honour of the President of the Republic. The various amusements connected with this season were, therefore, postponed till the next day, when, from the earliest dawn, pleasure-seekers of all sorts

were to be seen in every part of the city, intent upon the celebration of the carnival, with its due observances. The Indians, as before, were in full force, and piped, tabour ed, and danced in costumes much of the same grotesque character. The streets were thronged with stalls, at which were displayed a large assortment of wares, including silver cups, diminutive toys—some in silver, such as those known under the name of *allacitas*—others being admirably executed tea and coffee services, utensils of various descriptions, furniture, chairs, tables, beds, and dolls, together with heaps of bags filled with flour, or powder, for the coming sport.

Parties of Cholocs, both men and women, from thirty to forty strong, performed a running dance to the music of some half dozen guitars, and being supplied with bottles of *pisco*, with which they continually regaled themselves, the whole party was soon inebriated, and commenced singing a song, of which a few words only were distinguishable.

These parties reel on till they meet others who, like themselves, are disposed for a conflict, when a general battle ensues, powder

flying about in all directions, till the victors and the vanquished separate to furnish themselves with fresh supplies of their harmless ammunition, having all the appearance of so many jolly millers more than anything else. The higher mode of warfare is of a more scientific character; parties of ladies and gentlemen, well mounted on horseback, form cavalcades of twenty or thirty in number, and, with their pockets well stored with powder and sweetmeats, gallop through the streets, pelting those at the balconies and windows, who seize every opportunity of returning the compliment with interest. These equestrian parties also meet others similarly mounted, and engage with them in conflict. And whilst thus attacking each other, the whole are sometimes waylaid and beset by a company of warriors on foot, who so blind them all with flour that they are soon put *hors de combat*, or beat a retreat for want of ammunition.

It is the custom for a party of about twenty-four, with two commanders, to visit all mansions and houses of consequence, having court-yards and galleries. These men are dressed with great taste, wearing large

Spanish slouched hats, with hatbands of feathers beautifully arranged—white shirts with bodices, in the style of the Swiss peasantry, over which is placed a broad blue or red belt, fringed with dollars, which in dancing produce an agreeable clatter. At the side a small pouch, trimmed with doubloons, presents to the eye the glitter of its golden charms. Their breeches are of black velvet, immensely large, *à la Turque*, and slashed with red, being fastened to the knee by bunches of coloured ribands. Below this they wear blue stockings with clocks, and shoes adorned with large rosettes. Each individual carries in his hand a small truncheon, and the dance in which they engage is throughout all its arrangements precisely the old English morrice-dance.

The captains were decidedly the most conspicuous of the whole party. They were attired in old embroidered court suits, a profusion of frills and ruffles, flaxen bag-wigs of an enormous size, cocked hats, silk stockings, and singularly grotesque masks, which did not fail to excite the risible faculties of all the bystanders. In one hand they carried a prodigious postilion's whip, re-

markable for its extent of thong, and in the other an *eau de Cologne* bottle, with which they exhibited much drollery, affecting every species of dandyism, inhaling with studied air its odoriferous sweets, as they haughtily gave the orders to the dancers, and then countermanded them. From one of their capacious pockets they occasionally drew forth a small mirror, in which they pretended to admire themselves, and as they set about to adjust their huge bag-wigs, they indulged the company by a volley of sharp sayings and witticisms, which occasioned great entertainment.

After the termination of the dance, one of the commanders requests the other to favour the company with a *cama clogei*. To this the latter expresses a decided objection, asserts that he is in a delicate state of health, and naturally of a timid and bashful disposition. His companion then proposes a stimulant in the shape of wine, and asks him to tell him candidly if he thought that it would give him the requisite strength and courage. He then begins to cough, says that he does not know, but that he has no objection to try. At this broad hint the ladies and gentlemen in the galleries imme-

diately send down some bottles, having partaken of which, the two commence dancing in good earnest, one of them, with handkerchief in hand, acting the lady to perfection. This part of the entertainment was so well done, and the various attitudes and manœuvres of the performers so extremely droll, that it was encored three times by general acclamation. Of all laughable exhibitions that I ever witnessed, I was as much amused with this as any. At its conclusion the dancers went through some more of their figures, and then withdrew to delight other audiences.

Another party, deserving of notice, attracted my attention, and that was a band of Indians wearing skull-caps, with lappels hanging behind, and ornamented with beads in the manner in which the North American Indians embroider their mocassins. On their shoulders and backs they wore wings, made from the beautiful crimson feathers of the Flamingo, giving them much the appearance of the angels which are depicted in the works of the ancient masters. During the course of the night many minstrel parties with their dancers perambulated the city, affording

unmistakeable evidence in their uncontrolled noise and uproar, that they had too well learnt the abuse of intoxicating drinks. Thus ended the day's diversion for the mob, who here, as well as in merry England, have the highest sense of pleasure in the indulgence of mere animal propensities. It must not be forgotten, however, that in the better ranks of society the day was celebrated in a more rational manner, and balls and parties brought about the union of friends and families to participate in those festive scenes to which these occasions usually give birth.

At the back of the city rise a number of hills, amongst which one is distinguished from the rest as Mount Calvary, from its noted resemblance to the original in the Holy Land. On a particular day in the year, what is termed the Festival of the Cross, is celebrated at this place, and there might be seen large numbers of Choloes and Cholas, habited in their picturesque costumes, and bending under the weight of their ponderous crosses, ascending the mountain side, to fix them on the summit. They undertake this arduous labour as a meritorious act of devotion, and right glad they are when

they have accomplished their task, congratulating themselves and each other on the successful termination of their pious work, and celebrating that event by a number of bonfires, around which they recruit their exhausted strength by very liberal potations. After this they return to the city to prepare for the festivities of the night.

At the foot of these hills is a small plain, called the Caxa del Agua, in which is maintained the reservoir which supplies the city. On the morning of the feast, this place is the resort of numerous parties of ladies and gentlemen, on horseback, who have thus an opportunity of exhibiting their prowess; the lady equestrians generally distinguishing themselves greatly for their graceful or daring riding. As night approaches, the streets leading to the fair present a gay and joyous aspect: the young ladies of the city on the occasion of this feast, which lasts three or four days, allowing themselves great licence, both as regards costume and behaviour. They attire themselves in the Cholo fashion, their faces being so concealed and disguised that a husband would find it a difficult matter to recognise

his wife, or a lover his affianced. On the evenings during which this festival lasts, parties of both sexes, having thus laid aside their proper characters for the occasion, meet at each other's houses, and endeavour to discover their friends without being recognised themselves. There is generally great work for the imagination, in laying open the most successful attempts at deception.

The men mask and dress themselves in a variety of curious costumes, ingeniously made for the purpose. A great deal of the diversions of the evening take place on the plain to which I have already alluded. Parties of twelve or fourteen young ladies might be seen, preceded by some half-dozen guitars, and followed by a motley group of Turks, monkeys, warriors, and devils both white and black, all keeping time with their hands and feet to the running dances of the country. Then come servants of all colours and sizes, carrying small carpets and a supply of food and drink for the occasion. These masqueraders having selected a suitable position, spread their carpets, and arrange themselves in the form of three sides of a square, the ladies and musicians being

squatted in the first row, the gentlemen and servants behind. No sooner do the musicians commence with guitar and voice the baylarcitos of the country, than the whole party join, beating time with their feet. The gentlemen then select their partners, and they all go through the graceful movements of the dance, much to the delight of hundreds of spectators, who, at the conclusion of this portion of the amusement, loudly clamour for its repetition.

The appearance of the plain, as seen under the unusual aspect which these evenings present, is truly pleasing to the senses, and in spite of the ideas of frivolity that it might excite in the contemplative mind, savours much of the picturesque. In the gloom and stillness of night, the hum of busy voices is heard, where thousands of pleasure-seeking visitors are drawn together to while away a vacant hour in the enjoyment of innocent mirth, and the refreshing breeze. Tents might be seen, arranged in rows, where refreshment of various kinds is to be obtained. Here and there are clusters of stalls, where Indian women are busily engaged in the manufacture of *ajïes* and

chuniocs, the whole being lighted up by the combined brilliancy of numerous candles and lanterns. To this, music adds its charm, in the pleasing strains of the guitars and voices.

In the background, and, as it were, keeping aloof from any participation in the vulgar amusements of the populace, were the more distinguished spectators of the mirthful scene. These select groups of the *élite* of the city were composed of some of the most exalted and refined members of society, and as being not uninterested observers of what was passing before them, appropriately sanctioned with their presence these periodical outbursts of harmless fun and jollity.

The occasion of this masquerade seems to be equivalent to our leap-year in England, the ladies being at this time allowed a greater liberty than usual in expressing their sentiments to the opposite sex, for indeed they have not the fear of blushes before their eyes, nor are they otherwise deterred by any dread of compromising their characters or offending against the rules of delicacy.

The habitual intemperance pervading almost all classes of society is here very

remarkable. It is a painful thing to witness the extent to which the abuse of intoxicating drinks is carried, even in the very highest ranks; and the vice is committed so openly that even in the eyes of ladies it scarcely seems now to be regarded as a crime. So far, in fact, from discountenancing the practice, they seem to delight in making you its deluded victim. As a mark of particular regard and esteem they will pledge you in the strongest drinks, compelling you to drain your glass each time, until, assailed on all sides by the irresistible influence of their beautiful eyes, you soon find yourself in by no means a questionable state of unusual hilarity or unconsciousness, from the combined effect of the various liquors you have taken. A custom such as this would be more honoured in the breach than in the observance, destroying, as it does, that delicate sense of propriety which gives such a charm to civilized life. It is to be hoped that, with the advance of education and enlightenment, it will gradually subside into disuse, and so great a stain on the character of the people may be for ever obliterated.

As may be supposed, when their betters

set them such an example, these remarks apply with double force to the lower orders. These indulge their tastes in a similar, though a coarser manner, and when they can gain access to spirituous liquors, know no bounds to their intemperance and unbridled licence. In fact, everywhere, in all ranks of society, from the highest to the lowest, drunkenness seems to be the besetting sin. No social meetings can take place without recourse being had to stimulants, and the certainty of the natural result. The first advance in courtship cannot be made without their aid. They are the all-essential concomitants upon every occasion. In the streets at night their effects are but too evident. In the coldest season parties of six or eight men, with a proportionate number of females, are to be met with at the most unseasonable hours, singing vociferously and dancing, or, I should rather say, reeling in a far advanced state of intoxication to the strumming of a couple of guitars. Little can be done towards the amelioration of the condition of the people, either in a religious or political point of view, whilst thus enslaved by so degrading a vice.

During my residence at La Paz, I was a witness of the scenes which occurred during the Revolution of the 12th of March, 1849. At this date a despatch was received by General Belza, informing him of a revolt which had taken place in favour of General Bollivian at Oruro, in which the whole of the officers in command had been surprised, and the treasury robbed to the amount of 50,000 dollars. Orders were immediately issued for all the battalions to proceed without delay to the scene of action, and a few hours later General Belza and his staff followed with the cavalry. Thus, without any warning, the city was left to the care of a few armed policemen, and quite at the mercy of the Cholœs and Indians, who on several occasions threatened to sack it, and murder every foreigner who might be resident there. This was a pretty state of things—enough to alarm the timid, and rouse the just fears of even the stout-hearted. However, the remainder of the day, and the whole of the following night, passed off most tranquilly. But early in the morning a well-laid plot clearly manifested itself, having, no doubt, been long fomented by certain officers

and agents of the late President José Bollivian.

These having tampered with the police, and otherwise recruited their numbers, mustered in a very short time from a hundred and fifty to two hundred men, well armed. Such of the authorities of the place as had not fled at the first intelligence of the proposed insurrection were immediately seized, and General Bollivian was proclaimed without any opposition. The Choloes, who had suffered severities and rigour under the rule of that president, formed another party in favour of General Belza; but, being without arms, they were driven without difficulty from their posts, as they disputed the possession of street after street with stones or any such missile as they could lay their hands on. Under the continued fire of the other party they were forced back upon the heights, where, under the direction of the Argentine adventurer Lopez, they were made to assume a more orderly mode of attack. Picquets were despatched in various quarters for supplies of muskets and fire-arms. Reinforced with these, they threatened to storm the town; and soon, watching their oppor-

tunity, they rushed from the heights like a torrent, making their way along the principal streets leading to the grand Plaza, under a continual running fire from their opponents.

Thus, with the advantage of arms on the one side, and the superiority of numbers on the other, the contest lasted with fluctuating success until nightfall, when the Choloes were at length driven to the former position on the heights. The mortality of that day amounted to eighteen killed and about forty wounded. Amongst the former were several innocent sufferers. A beautiful girl of fifteen years of age, belonging to a wealthy family, was shot through the head, in her own apartment, whilst imprudently looking on from the window at the scene below. The same ball striking her father on the breast, but without doing much harm. Two females, who were retiring to their dwellings near the scene of action, also met a similar fate. On the following day a repetition of the same attacks and repulses continued till night with similar results, the Choloes, as before, being defeated in their attempts to make themselves masters of the city.

In the meantime the authorities of the

place had forwarded urgent messages to General Belza, informing him of the disastrous state of things, and demanding succour. Rumours became current, that his arrival would take place on the morrow, accompanied by a strong force, and that the battalions were already advancing by forced marches. The Bollivian party, on hearing these tidings, took the alarm, and quietly evacuating the city at the dead of the night, left their enemies, the Cholos, masters of the city.

However, this indescribable *finale* to the struggles of the last two days, was but an exemplification of the old proverb, "out of the frying-pan into the fire." The victors, thus left in easy possession of everything, were then assembled and addressed by the Prefect, who expressed his high sense of their valour, and thanking them for having saved the city, stated his determination to supply them with arms for the preservation of order. This being accomplished, results of a very different nature from those anticipated began to transpire. These misguided men, finding that they had now all the power in their hands, began to use it for

their own selfish purposes, and instead of contributing to the peace and order of the city, caused terror and confusion wherever they went. They forced themselves into private houses, plundered the shops, destroyed the papers and archives of the Government, and levied contributions on passengers in the public streets; using threats, if not violence, in case their demands were not instantly complied with.

This state of things caused greater consternation than the occurrences of the few days previous. Fear was depicted on every countenance, and the hearts of the citizens were painfully excited at the dismal forebodings of the future. Certain houses were marked for plunder; twelve in the street in which I resided were of the number, including the one which I myself occupied. Many of these were saved by the exertions of the good and pious fathers of the Recoletes, whose heroic conduct and Christian virtues on this distressing occasion gained for them universal applause. Wherever danger and violence reigned, there were they to be seen, cross in hand, imprecating the vengeance of Heaven on the heads of the disturbers of the

public peace. With tears in their eyes, and almost choked with emotion, they exposed their sacred persons to the fury of these monsters, until at length, their reason convinced, or their hearts softened, by the eloquent appeals of the reverend fathers, some, less obdurate than the rest, slunk away with shame, leaving their misguided companions to resist, as best they could, the fervid eloquence of these ministers of God.

A wealthy Spaniard, named El Catalano, proprietor of a large and elegantly furnished mansion, the lower stories of which were well stocked with foreign goods to a large amount, suffered particularly by the sackage of his premises. This person, thinking to stop the fury of the mob and save his property, threw several thousand dollars amongst them, to secure which, they almost trampled one another to death. However, so far was their cupidity from being satisfied by this bountiful largess, that it only the more inflamed their zeal in their work of depredation. They immediately began to lay their hands on everything they could find, and those things which they could not carry away with them, such as large and valuable

articles of furniture, were thrown out of the windows and utterly destroyed.

This house would, no doubt, have been entirely razed to the ground, but for the exertions of the good fathers, whose appeals were at length listened to, and thus the remainder of the goods was saved. They likewise pleaded successfully on behalf of many other houses, and by dint of malediction as well as entreaty, the work of demolition was stayed; not, however, till irreparable mischief had been done. It would be impossible to enumerate the various acts of barbarity and wanton destruction to which the town was subject whilst under the dominion of these savages; and as night approached, fears for the public safety were redoubled, as those whose courage had stood them in good stead during the events of the day were paralyzed at the prospect of the deeds of violence which would be committed under the cover of darkness.

All their worst fears would have been realized, had it not been for the exemplary friars, who again came to their aid, and forming companies of six, each headed by persons carrying a crucifix and lanterns,

patrolled the streets during the night, directing their footsteps wherever there seemed a danger of disturbance and outrage. It was reported that one of these fathers fell a victim to his pious zeal, being butchered whilst in the performance of the hazardous duty he had voluntarily undertaken for the public good. The kind offices, however, of these worthy men were not bestowed in vain, for little or no mischief was perpetrated that night.

On the next day, General Belza and several battalions entered the city; and no sooner was the President installed in his house, than he gave orders that all the mansions and stores of *pisco* belonging to General Bollivian, together with the private dwellings of his relatives, should be given up to the Choloes for plunder, as a reward for their valiant conduct in support of the government. If matters were bad before, they now became ten times worse. The natural consequences of drunkenness and rapine were soon visible everywhere. The rabble congregated in the streets, and even under the windows of the President's house, yelling forth their drunken shouts of *Evviva Belza*, until, in order to appease them, the General

himself was obliged to parade the streets with his staff, and, hat in hand, to acknowledge the compliment of their uproarious applause.

I was standing at my door, returning the salutation of the President, who, followed by a crowd laden with plunder, was passing in front of my dwelling, when I was addressed by a Cholo and a soldier, who came up at the time, carrying a large quantity of books, the fruits of their pillage, which they offered to me for sale. On my saying that I had no need of them, they became very abusive, at the same time making a snatch at a gold watchguard which I wore round my neck. Thus assailed, I found my only chance was to give it them in the true English fashion, and by dealing them a few judicious blows, I scattered them and their books in all directions. This so astonished them, accustomed as they had been hitherto to have it all their own way, that they kept their distance, and packing up their books, quietly withdrew out of harm's way; not, however, without informing me, to my comfort, as they retreated beyond all reach of danger, that they would soon murder all foreigners.

This little incident took place in mid-day, and within sight of the President himself.

So much for his policy in entrusting the lives and property of the citizens to the tender mercies of these lawless wretches. As might be expected, the remainder of that day and the following night were passed in excesses of every kind, and the city seemed given up to a set of drunken marauders, who committed street robberies and plundered private dwellings with perfect impunity. I was unfortunate enough to be one of their victims. They gained entrance into my house, and demanded money. I told them I had none to give them, upon which some of the party indulged in very big words; and, at the same time, in order to make their threats take more instant effect, they began to draw something from under their ponchos. At first I was disposed to reason with them, telling them that I was under the protection of the British flag, and that any attempt on their part to enforce their claims, would only bring down a just vengeance on themselves; but afterwards I felt more inclined to try to cut down the party with my cavalry sword, and should certainly have attempted it, had

I not been strongly advised by a gentleman present to endeavour to get rid of them at a cheaper rate.

I prudently followed his counsel. The leader of the party had hitherto kept them back, and after a few more words of parley they all left me, as I afterwards found, to enter the apartments of a beautiful Bolivian lady, whose husband was then absent, frightening the poor creature and her servants almost to death. I immediately followed them, and partly by persuasion, and partly by force, prevailed on them to leave the house, having promised to give them a few dollars when beyond the threshold of the door.

Descending into the court-yard to complete my bargain, I found twelve or fourteen more determined looking fellows; and fearing an augmentation of numbers, I quickly hurried the whole party beyond the gateway, promptly paid their demands, and having securely barred and barricaded the gate, thanked my stars at having got off so well. On returning to the lady from whose premises I had expelled these ruffians, she pointed out to me a considerable sum of money, which all

the while had been deposited on a table in the room; but, strange to say, neither the men nor myself had taken any notice of it.

Thus continued this state of things, day by day; but as time wore away, order began to be again established. Occasionally, such of the soldiers as had joined the insurgents were brought into the city, having been taken prisoners by the Indians; but greatly to the credit of the authorities, acting under the directions of General Belza, they were but slightly punished, being merely for a time held prisoners, instead of being obliged to suffer the penalties of martial law. At this juncture, news arrived at La Paz that Potosi and Cochabamba were in arms, and that the presence of the General and his forces were necessary to quell the insurrection. Before leaving, however, he appointed General Braun, a German officer, who had gained distinction under the Republic, during the presidency of the late revered Santa Cruz, as Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard, a corps organized from among the residents and shopkeepers (including even foreigners), comprising several companies, which patrolled the streets at stated hours during the night.

By means of these salutary precautions, the city was maintained in a state of the utmost tranquillity, and affairs soon began to resume their wonted security.

On Saturday, the 24th of March, a French officer, named Colonel Vizenden, who had been secreted in the house of an ecclesiastic, was arrested by the police authorities, and heavily ironed, charged with being an agent of General Bollivian, as having caused the whole of the outbreak throughout the Republic; and of having also, by means of his agents, his manœuvres, and his money, fomented and encouraged the late insurrection at Lima. This gentleman was a man of brilliant parts, speaking the English language with fluency and elegance.

I took the opportunity of paying him a visit, whilst under confinement, and was readily admitted by the officer on guard. On entering his prison, which was so dark that I did not perceive him, I pronounced his name, and was answered by the poor fellow, who was heavily chained, from beneath some ponchos with which he lay covered. He was exceedingly glad to see me; and on my expressing my sorrow at

finding him in such a position, said jocosely, "Be of good cheer; all will soon be arranged to our satisfaction!" Seeing him so happy and confident in the expectation of his release, I left him a few books to beguile away the tedious time, fully satisfied that all was right. Little, however, did I imagine that this was the last time that I should ever see him. On the following day he was escorted to Oruro, and there tried by court-martial, and condemned to be shot. Thence he was brought back again to La Paz.

One evening, whilst conversing with some friends, my attention was attracted by crowds of persons running in one direction; and on making inquiries, I ascertained that it was the unfortunate Frenchman who was the object of their curiosity, and who on the following day was to meet his fate. Early in the morning his execution took place. He exhibited the utmost resignation and bravery whilst undergoing his sentence, and died in the observance of the religious duties befitting the occasion. The impression produced by his fortitude and Christian demeanour was considerable. He gained the good opinion even of his enemies. They so far

commiserated his fate as to procure him the rites of burial, and he was consigned to the tomb amidst evident demonstrations of silent and sincere grief.

CHAPTER VI.

Route to Sorata—La Catea—Ancoma—Capaguaya—Bridge of Quilapitune—Joya—Tipuani. Its productions and natural advantages. Description of the town. Gold mines in the neighbourhood. Less important mines in the district—Guanay.

The road from La Paz to Sorata is continued along a plain for nine or ten leagues, having the range of the Cordilleras at a distance of a league or two on the right hand the whole of the way. On the left hand the plain extends very far, the Corracora range forming the background. As you approach a mass of rock that rises suddenly out of the level, the small town of Las Pienas strikes upon the view. It contains a population of from 250 to 300 inhabitants. After passing several well-cultivated fields of wheat and barley,

amongst which a number of *haciendas* are prettily situated, the road for a league or two gradually ascends. When the eminence is gained, the snow-capped peak of the majestic Illampi is seen soaring above the clouds in awful grandeur, distinguished in extent and elevation from its compeers in the mighty chain of which it forms a part.

As the traveller passes onward, the view of this snowy range is occasionally intercepted by a succession of high bluffs, but the sudden prospect which is afforded to him every now and then, as some opening or chasm reveals the distant scenery beyond, charms and delights his senses by its terrible sublimity. Soon afterwards scenes of a different character attract his attention. After crossing the river Alsa, and ascending the opposite embankment, the great Lake of Titicaca will appear before him, spreading its even and placid surface for a considerable distance. At Tiaguanaco, on this lake, are preserved the famous ruins of the palace of the Incas, imparting to the spot, already so abundant in natural beauties, the additional interest of historical association.

After descending by a circuitous route for

about half a league, the town of Sorata is seen embosomed in a deep *cabrada*, which presents a valley of a most picturesque description; its gentle undulations, verdant with rich and luxuriant cultivation, contrasting well with the bleak and snowy peaks seen in the distance. This beautiful valley is entered by means of a rude bridge, consisting of nothing but a large rough stone thrown across the river of Sorata, which winds its quiet course almost imperceptibly in this secluded region. A neat house has been built near the spot, and belongs to Senor Yldefonzo Villarnil. Half a league further, on a gentle ascent, stands the town of Sorata. It possesses little attraction for strangers, the Plaza presenting a very lonely aspect, although, from the appearance of some of the dwellings, they seem to be inhabited by persons of the first respectability. It is said that its inhabitants are noted for their kindness and hospitality. I cannot speak from experience, as, not being desirous of availing myself of their assistance, I had no opportunity of putting their reputation to the test.

After leaving Sorata, there is an ascent of about three leagues, till you arrive at a place

called La Catea, at the foot of the mountain Illampi, where there is a house built for the accommodation of the major-domo or administrator of a large *hacienda*. At this point of the journey, travellers generally rest awhile, to make tight the girths of their beasts of burden, and to see that the whole of their equipage is in good order, ere they make the commencement of the long and toilsome ascent of the extensive range of the Cordilleras.

From La Catea to Ancoma, which lies on the other side of the mountain, is a distance of five leagues. At the latter place are the remains of an Indian village, and, to judge from the ruins which time has left, evidently a place well inhabited, and of considerable importance.

At Capaguaya there opens to the astonished traveller a scene truly wonderful, and to which no description whatever can do adequate justice.

On both sides of a deep *cabrada* rise stupendous mountains, o'ertopping the very clouds as they appear to vie with each other in their upward extent. In the midst of all this sublime magnificence nature has not neglected

the favoured spot which is here enclosed. It abounds in a most luxuriant vegetation; woods of the most beautiful and varied kinds are here produced in great quantity. Flowers and plants, too, render the air fragrant with their balmy odours. This little oasis presents great charms to the senses, where all around, though terribly grand, is of a sterile and less smiling character. From Capaguaya. there is the distance of one league to the river and bridge of Quilapitune. The descent at this place is one of the most extraordinary and terrific which it is possible for the imagination to picture. Nature, in some of her wayward moods, seems determined to daunt curiosity and stem the current of enterprise; but man, bold and resolute, sets dangers at defiance. In the enjoyment of bodily vigour, and the exercise of his highest prerogative, a reasoning mind, he learns to overcome seeming impossibilities, and perseveres in spite of every obstacle in the pursuit of pleasure or of wealth.

Such were my thoughts as I looked upon the scene and witnessed the preparations that were made for our progress under the difficult

circumstances in which we now found ourselves placed. The road along which we had to pass was of a most irregular description; whether formed artificially or by the wear and tear of ages, in some strange convulsions of nature, I cannot determine, but the effect was not very cheering, even to the most fearless mountain traveller. Our way lay along a succession of enormous giant steps, cut out of the solid rock, along which human beings and animals had to get on as best they could, being obliged at times to jump, at the risk of their lives, many yards from one projection to the other.

Before making the attempt to arrive at the river at the bottom of the abyss, it was necessary to relieve the animals of the burden of their saddles and baggage, which had to be carried down the rough and precipitate descent on the backs of the servants, who drove the mules and horses loose before them. Should any accident befall man or beast by reason of a false step, he is inevitably hurled a distance of five or six thousand feet to the depths beneath, beyond all human means of rescue. Fortunately we arrived safely at the

bottom, only to wonder at our having survived without ill consequences the various chances of danger and of death.

The bridge which crosses the river is of the following construction. On each side of the river a stone pier is erected, from the basement of which proceed several long poles that are well maintained in their position by means of huge stones and hide cables. These poles gradually slope towards the river, forming two inclined planes, and are secured at their extremities by lassoes of raw hide, wetted, of great strength and durability. On this framework or cradle are placed at given distances pieces of wood resembling the rounds of a ladder, and over these are laid branches of trees and brambles, and a quantity of loose earth, which in course of time becomes sufficiently solid for use.

After having passed this primitive bridge, we found that the distance to Joya was about two leagues, which, though so inconsiderable, was fruitful in many a dangerous adventure. We here encountered some most difficult passes; the peril of every onward step being great in the extreme, and I verily believe that we should never have accom-

plished our arduous undertaking, had we not been continually cheered by the hope that we had got through the worst part of it. Our happy ignorance of the future that was before us, combined with a natural tendency to indulge in the delusive dreams which our desires suggested, served to inspire us with the necessary courage, and made us reckless of the dangers to which we were momentarily exposed. Nerved for the occasion, we boldly encountered perils, the bare recollection of which was enough to make our very blood run cold. It was the retrospect alone which revealed to us their true character.

From Joya to Zaviga is a distance of six leagues, and includes several stations on the road. At the latter place there is another extraordinary bridge, made of the trunks of long straight trees resembling ash. These are laid across the river, being attached to two rocks. Pieces of wood are tied to them horizontally, ladder fashion, as before, but not being furnished with branches of trees, brambles, or earth, the traveller is unable to find any sure footing, and is, therefore, obliged to crawl across on his hands and knees, having the by no means encouraging

prospect before him, in case of a mishap, of a terrific plunge in the waters of the yawning abyss beneath. When cattle and horses are to be conveyed across, they are made to swim from bank to bank, and strongly secured against being carried away by the stream by lasspes of hide.

From Zaviga to Tulu it is half a league; Tulu to Nayrapi, three leagues; Nayrapi to Paymanta, two leagues; Paymanta to the river of Toro, a league and a half. Over this river is a bridge, at which is the principal toll on the road, a small house, in which resides the toll collector, who levies on man and beast according to a scale of prices, being at one extremity.

The climate of Tipuani is, without doubt, one of the most pernicious in the world, fever and ague prevailing to a fearful extent. In the year 1848 this village was nearly depopulated by these scourges, young and old sinking beneath their baneful influence, being hurried to a sudden grave. Toro, Romanplaya, Unatuluni, and Sanguanita are not subject to these maladies to so great a degree. This is not to be wondered at, since the character of the climate perceptibly

changes at every turn or winding of the *cabrada* as you advance towards Tipuani.

The vegetables and natural productions of Tipuani are celebrated for their prolific nature and their luxuriant growth. Sugar cane, coffee, cocoa, cotton, arrowroot, pine-apple, plaintain, and all tropical fruits and vegetables, together with every species of grain, here thrive in the greatest perfection. Rum is likewise distilled here in large quantities. Owing, however, to the enormous rate of wages paid to labourers, the treasures which this valuable soil contains are greatly neglected, the current value of its produce not being sufficient to justify the labour necessary for its due cultivation. *Peones*, or common labourers, earn from six royals to a dollar a day, and such as are qualified to undertake the work in the mines receive from twelve royals to two dollars a day. The disproportion between the cost of product and the marketable value of the food raised tends greatly to check any spirit of enterprise.

The village of Tipuani presents to the eye of the stranger one of the most desolate and miserable localities which it is possible to

imagine. It consists of a number of houses built of an irregular form, and chiefly constructed of poles fixed in the ground close to each other, and then plastered over with mud, so as to form a kind of partition or wall. There are exceptions in the case of several houses, built of raw brick. The Plaza differs in no respect from the rest of the place, but exhibits the same dismal and wretched character throughout. In one corner stands a temporary building, which I ascertained, on inquiry, to be the parish church, but in such a sad state of dilapidation as to speak little for the reverence in which the sanctuary of God is held in this bigoted country. When we consider how little its sacred portals are entered, we need be at no loss to account for the degraded immorality of the district.

The inhabitants consist chiefly of Choloes, mulattoes, and blacks, who are employed in the mines, and whose vices and profligacy surpass all description. The intemperance to which they are addicted would of itself render them capable of any crime, but the low standard of their morality is such that they need not the stimulus of drink to urge

them on to the foulest crimes. However, there are two or three white families here which form an exception to the general rule. The curate, too, who is an Italian, holds a high reputation, and although at first sight he appears to wear a severe and repulsive expression of countenance, report speaks in strong terms of his great hospitality and kindness to strangers. The number of inhabitants in this place amounts to about four hundred and fifty to five hundred souls.

In the district of Tipuani are gold mines, which are classified according to the manner in which they are worked. These four distinct classes are as follows:—Banquria, Playalta, Cochea, and Serniadura. The first is worked in the mode following,—a large shaft (*pozo*, or well) is sunk to the depth of the primitive bed of the river, the circumference of this shaft depending wholly on the locality. When the water occasioned by filtration is completely extracted, by means of chain pumps and other contrivances, the workmen are set to form *frontoneas*, or horizontal shafts, around the principal one. They continue working along these minor shafts till they come to the *veneria*, in which is

found the gold. This earth is taken carefully out by the miners in *capychas*, or leather buckets, or in *tempinas*, or aprons, fastened round the neck and shoulders of the workman. Whilst the horizontal shafts are being formed, the progress of the work is often impeded by huge rocks, which it is necessary to blast ere the shaft can be continued in that direction.

Around the base of these *bancas*, or rocks, are frequently found quantities of gold, in large *pepitas*, or grains, weighing from a quarter of an ounce to an ounce, or more. The *veneria*, or earth, on being removed from its bed, is conveyed to a place called a *concha*, a large space prepared for its reception, where it is deposited in heaps until the works cease for the season. At this time temporary channels or sluices are formed to convey water to the spot, when the washings take place. The *veneria*, after being washed several times in water, until perfectly free from all particles of earth, is removed at the end of each day, during the time the operation continues, to the houses of the proprietors, and there weighed and put up into

bags of a portable size, which are carried by the Indians on their backs to Sorata.

In the Playalta, or second class of mines, the ground is generally removed for the distance of three or four yards, until the original bed of the river is arrived at, where is usually discovered a *veneria*, or dark earth, varying from six to twelve inches in depth, though it is occasionally less. All the surplus earth being thrown aside, the richness of the metal is assayed; a *batea*, or wooden trough, is used, in which the *veneria* is washed with great dexterity, the water being repeatedly changed, so that all earthy particles are eventually expelled, and the pure metal alone remains, affording a criterion both as to its quantity and quality, and thus enabling those who desire to ascertain the character of the works, to judge as to the richness or poverty of the *veneria* in which it is found.

The Cochea, or third class, is thus worked:—A large drain or sewer is made from the bottom of the hill towards the river, about three feet in width and the same in depth. It is lined with raw bricks or flat

stones, the bottom being paved with round stones called *tortas* (cakes), which are found in great abundance in the bed of the river. The sides of the hill are dug away by the *peones*, or labourers, so as to form a perpendicular surface for the purpose of forming horizontal *frontanes*, or shafts, from eight to fifteen yards in depth, according to the locality. Water is then conveyed by means of channels from the neighbouring hills and *cabradas*—oftentimes at vast manual labour and expense from places far distant from the scene of action—into large reservoirs, from which it is made to descend by a sudden burst on the broken ground, so as fully to saturate every portion of the soil. Thence it passes into the shafts, displacing the earth in all directions. The portions of the ground thus dislodged are so arranged by the miners that on a second application of this great body of water they are entirely swept away, the earth and all opposing bodies being forced by the violence of the cataracts through the channels into the river or surrounding places, leaving all the particles of gold fixed in the crevices of the *tortas*, which form the pavement of the sluices.

When the mining season is over, and before the rains commence, which destroy and inundate everything, these *tortas* are taken up, and the earth and gold which remain in them are carefully collected and subjected to the same operation as before explained.

The Serniadura is the fourth class. These mines are always worked in the wet season, in consequence of their being situated on the side of a hill, there being no means of bringing a sufficient body of water to the works but by taking advantage of the heavy rains which descend in torrents from the mountains. The sides of the hill are cut perpendicularly, or nearly so, and the loose earth being arranged on the slopes, or at the bottom, the rains, when they descend, fall precipitously from the heights, and carry away with much violence into the channels prepared for their reception, large quantities of earth, which are deposited in a pit or reservoir, paved with *tortas*. When the dry season sets in, this earth is collected and carefully washed, and the gold extracted as before.

There are several gold mines to be met with in the district around Tipuani. At Toro

is an establishment which belongs to Don José Zavala, a native of Spain, and Mr. James Whitley and Co. This mine promises to be very productive. The next is at Romanplaya, about two leagues from Toro, belonging to the same company. It has been worked for many years with very great success, and is still very productive. The next establishment is called Unatuloni, about two leagues from Romanplaya. Its proprietors are a Mr. Fink, a German, and a Mr. Portallis and Co., from the Argentine Republic. This mine has been worked for some time most advantageously, and still promises very well. The Sanjuanita mine is under the superintendence of Senor Villomil and Co., and fully repays the expense of working. Besides these, there is the Cangalli mine, belonging to Senor Zovala, Whitley, and Co.

All the neighbourhood of Tipuani—even the town itself, in part—has been worked by the Company of Villomil with almost incredible success. Having been fortunate enough to hit upon those reservoirs of the precious metal termed *boyas*, they soon amassed large quantities of gold, and realized an enormous

fortune in a very short space of time. In addition to the above-mentioned principal mining establishments, there are hundreds of an inferior description, some of which are still worked under every species of disadvantage; whilst others are wholly deserted. Some of them scarcely defray the necessary expenses, and are only persevered in from the hope of falling in with a *boya*, which would fully make amends for years of failure. There are also numerous mines on the sides of the hill, which are now deserted, from the want of the due means for the conveyance of the water which is required for washing the gold, whilst abundance of this precious fluid, which might be serviceable for this purpose, is already collected in reservoirs and depositories, but at so vast a distance, that it would require incalculable trouble and ingenuity, together with a good supply of capital, to render it of use in mining operations.

From Tipuani to Guanay is a distance of about eight leagues. The road passes through a very picturesque and interesting country, differing very much in character from that between Sorata and Tipuani. Long ranges of low hills rise on both sides, and through

a large extent of broken meadow-land flows a gentle river, which winds its circuitous course through banks interspersed with flowers and carpeted with verdure.

The town of Guanay appears at the foot of a mountain, and at a distance suggests the idea of an island detached from its side. This is the effect of the *mirage*, and is produced by the brilliancy and extreme rarefaction of the atmosphere. The principal inhabitants of the town are Indians, who are said to be originally from Mojos, and whose chief occupation consists in navigating the rivers in *bolzas*, or rafts, constructed of a sort of cork-wood exceedingly buoyant. On these rafts large quantities of the natural produce of Mojos and Reyes are brought to Guanay. At a short distance below the town, the river of Tipuani and that of La Paz, which takes a circuitous course round the Illemani, through many deep and winding *cabradas*, unite, and being afterwards joined by the river Mapiri, which, having its source four or five leagues below Sorata, flows in a north-westerly direction to this spot, the whole forms a considerable body of water, which steers its course through Reyes, and there

forming a junction with the Bermijo and Pilcomay rivers, sweeps along this vast tract of country, till it loses itself in the mighty Amazon.

Having made a lengthened stay in the city of La Paz, and explored its neighbourhood, I bent my steps towards the capital. The course of my journey thither lay through a tract of country little explored by strangers. It was full of adventures of a novel, sometimes of a painful character, the recital of which, together with some description of the city of Chuquisaca, will form the subject of the two next chapters.

CHAPTER VII.

Scene on the Punas—Adventure at the Post of Ceinko—Calamarca—Hayohayo—Chicta Sicasica—Panduro—Caracollo.

On leaving La Paz for Chuquisaca, you ascend to the Punas, where the road assumes all the monotony which these table-lands usually present. There is, however, something to feed the imagination and delight the eye in the noble chain of the snowy Cordilleras, which continues in sight for a considerable distance. Occasionally, the Punas verge on the beautiful valley of La Paz, which follows the course of these giant hills, bringing to view numerous *haciendas*, Indian villages with their churches, smiling meadows, and fields of waving *cébada* and rust-

ling maize, well irrigated by a variety of springs, which here and there form themselves into small lakes, on whose bosoms ducks, geese, and wild-fowl might be seen in great profusion.

I halted on the brink of a precipice to view again with wonder this extraordinary and beautiful panorama. I have gazed with delight in my younger years on the varied charms of Alpine scenery, my soul filled with awe, as, from tracing the silvery glacier or the fearful avalanche, my eye rested on the majestic peak of Mont Blanc, as it proudly soared above all its meaner competitors. I remember well the feelings that animated my breast as, whilst surveying the greatest and sublimest of nature's works, my own insignificance became so apparent, and tremblingly would I pour forth a prayer to Him, whose almighty power had framed it all, and at whose throne the supplications of the beggar or the prince receive an equal share of His regard. With what sensations, then, must I not have gazed on the enchanting scenes which the New World now offered me! and truly, I was fixed to the spot in mute admiration, indulging, as it were, in a dream

such as only imagination has pictured in the highly coloured pages of Eastern romance.

There is a pleasure, which the traveller only knows, who has explored distant lands, and in the buoyancy of health and spirits, and the enjoyment of the soul-inspiring influence of sunny skies, has breathed the invigorating atmosphere of those regions where all is beautiful. To a traveller amidst the grandest scenery of the Alps, it might appear that Nature had done her best; but, sublime as it is, it must be confessed that the New World—everything being on a much larger scale—contains to a larger extent the chief element of grandeur. The highest ranges of the Alps would lose their colossal dimensions when seen by the side of those stupendous natural elevations, for which the new hemisphere is remarkable; and no description can adequately convey a true idea of those sentiments of awe and wonder with which these latter inspire an actual beholder. In the present instance the contrast was most remarkable between the peaceful and terrestrial Paradise that lay at my feet, and the lofty mountains, whose tops pierced the very clouds, frowning with

a stern and chilling aspect on the smiling scene beneath. After having surfeited myself by a rapturous contemplation of so inviting a prospect, I relieved my eyes by bending my steps along an unattractive and barren road in the direction of Ceinko, a small village where I halted in order to procure some oranges, which proved most grateful after the excessive heat of the unsheltered Punas.

The post-house, a square building at which I arrived, was in a sad state of ruin. During the presidency of General Bollivian the whole of the posts in the republic were thoroughly repaired, rendered more commodious, and suitably furnished, the principal room in each establishment being papered and provided with a table, a chair, and a couple of bedsteads. Since that time, however, these salutary measures are no longer put in force. Everything has been allowed to fall into decay, accelerated, no doubt, by the disturbed condition of the country during its revolutionary factions, and the continual passing to and fro of troops. In these establishments there are generally two or three smaller rooms besides that which is

furnished, and these can be made available, if required. As regards fare, one can always procure a *chupe*, a kind of fresh stew, which forms a tolerable dish for the not over delicate stomachs of the hardy travellers in these climes. Sometimes, but rarely, he can indulge in the luxury of ribs of mutton, which is introduced as an agreeable addition to the usual repast.

On my arrival here, I immediately took possession of the principal room, finding it vacant, and congratulated myself on my being alone. I sallied forth to the *patio* or court-yard, to see after my goods, when I found a number of Indian postilions busily occupied in unloading my baggage mules. An altercation was taking place between them and a postilion whom I had brought with me from La Paz, relative to a pair of boots, which the latter had incautiously left loose amongst my luggage, and which had been slyly appropriated by one of the number on the instant of our arrival. I took the hint, and immediately ordered my goods and chattels to be removed out of harm's way, and safely deposited in the principal room of the inn, close to my bed.

Having completed these arrangements, and ordered my *chupe*, which was soon concocted entirely to my satisfaction by a female black cook, who had been in my employ for some time at La Paz, and was now accompanying me to Chuquisaca. After this, I retired to rest for the night, determined to rise early on the following morning, and anticipating some delightful repose after the fatigues of the day. This, however, the fates denied me; for I was just entering upon my first nap, when my sense of hearing was assailed by some loud harsh bellowing, and there came such a thumping and kicking at the door as to be enough to disturb the serenity of a saint. "Who are you? and what do you want?" said I. "Only to get in, and if you don't make haste and open the door, I'll knock it about your ears." Scrambling out of bed, and wholly forgetting that all my luggage was piled up in its vicinity, I stumbled first against one thing and then against another, making such a noise at every step, that I disturbed every one in the post, who soon began to collect, to ascertain the cause of the unusual clamour.

By this time I had gained the door, and

on withdrawing from it two huge pieces of wood which I had cautiously fixed against it to guard me against all intruders, there presented himself to my view, hidden behind an enormous pair of moustachios and whiskers to match, a military gentleman accompanied by an orderly. Entering the room without any ceremony, he began to make himself quite at home, at the same time applying to myself epithets that were anything but complimentary. I soon resumed my place in bed, piling the clothes upon me that I might the better mark his movements without being observed.

Finding that I returned no answer to the interrogatives which he put to me from time to time, and seeing from the unmolested manner in which he had taken possession of the room, that he had it all to himself, he turned round and vented forth his foul language on the master of the post, who, together with many others, had been aroused from his bed by the uproar which my unexpected visitor and myself had occasioned; then abused in like terms the *semenero*, and lastly, the orderly who was in attendance upon him.

After most effectually making every one fly before him, by a certain knack which he had of half unsheathing his sword at every demand, he soon found all his desires perfectly satisfied, and bed, *chupe*, and everything on which he had set his heart, were placed before him in the twinkling of an eye. All the while he was occasionally casting sheep's eyes in the direction of my bed, and as I had all along considered silence the best policy, I completely thwarted his designs of inveigling me into a quarrel, by shrouding myself closer in the folds of my capacious coverings.

Soon, however, I had my patience put to a most severe test, and I found it was not of that character to enable me to resist any longer the cool insolence of my unwelcome visitor. My servant had unadvisedly placed near the other bed, in a nook in the wall, two bottles of wine, in order that they might be out of the way of danger. They were no sooner seen by my self-constituted guest, than without more ado, or impertinent inquiry, as to whom they belonged, he began to uncork one of them, and proceeded to partake of its contents. This was too much for flesh and blood to bear. I could

no longer lie in bed and quietly witness so unwarrantable an appropriation of my property, but sprang upon my feet, in a state of indignation befitting the occasion, and presented my six-barrelled revolver at the head of the impertinent intruder; who, yielding to the influence which the application of this forcible argument exercised over him, suddenly desisted from his purpose, not however, without letting fall the bottle, in the agitation of the moment, and spilling the wine on the floor.

"Holloa!" said he, in an evident state of tremor; "what the devil are you about—are you going to shoot me?" "No," said I, "I am only going to have a shot at the bottle, it belongs to me, and you know a man has a full right to do what he likes with his own." "But if you do that you are sure to hit me." "I can't help it," I replied, "if you are foolish enough to get behind the bottle, you must take the consequence."

This mode of treating so much swaggering independence had the desired effect. The successful bully of the moment before, was completely brought to his senses. The recent introduction to him, of which my pistol

had been the means, had placed my friend on his very best behaviour. He stammered out an apology for his conduct, became all at once exceedingly polite and even amusing, and contrived, much to my discomfort, probably to revenge himself as best he could, for the fright I had given him, to keep me awake for the remainder of the night. Early in the morning I found my companion inclined to drowsiness, and when he was safely locked in the arms of the sleepy god, of which sundry loud and discordant snorings gave good evidence, I determined, in return for his incivility of the past night, to break in upon his repose by preparing for my departure. What with the entry of postilions, the saddling and packing of mules outside, and the general stir attendant on the preparations for my journey, more than sufficient noise was made, most satisfactorily to effect my purpose.

Up jumps my military friend, startled from the sweet slumbers in which he was indulging, probably under the effects of the sherry to which he had so unceremoniously helped himself, and inquires, in authoritative tones—"What is the matter?" "Nothing," replied

I, coolly; "I was only returning you the compliment of the serenade with which you favoured me last night, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did."

When all my arrangements were ended, the master of the post discovered that my luggage was of too ponderous a nature for the poor beasts conveniently to carry, and that another mule was absolutely necessary. To this I demurred, and a violent altercation ensued, he maintaining his point by a volley of Amarah, a language I did not understand, and I as resolutely protesting in as choice Spanish as I could muster. As neither of us comprehended the language the other was speaking, we were left to judge of each other's meaning from the violence and gesture by which it was accompanied. The upshot of it all was that the master of the post, more to relieve his jaded animals than to save my pocket, consented to give me another mule free of expense; and thus furnished I quitted the premises, leaving my ill-bred companion grumbling at the disturbance to which he was subjected, and vainly endeavouring to compose himself again to sleep after the shock his nerves had

sustained, fully sensible, no doubt, of the danger to which he had exposed himself, in trifling with a gentleman who could so readily avail himself of fire-arms in his defence.*

On the first part of my journey from Ceinko I found the road rather flat and uninteresting, though an occasional ascent and descent produced a little variety. On each side of the way the country resolved itself into large plains resembling lakes of water of a brightness painful to the eyes, which was occasioned by vast beds of saltpetre which stretch along these Punas for many leagues.† The horizon is everywhere

* On account of the numerous revolutions which have taken place in Bolivia, during which the military have scoured the country in the name of the party to which they belonged, levying contributions by force, taking possession of the post-masters' mules, and plundering the Indians of their provisions, for which the latter received only blows in return,—these gentlemen, accustomed to have it all their own way, have continued to assume, even during the time of peace, an arbitrary and independent sort of bearing, which, no doubt, emboldened my friend of the post to play his tricks upon travellers. In this instance, however, he caught a Tartar.

† Along the course of these tracts of Saltpetre, the country people never think of venturing abroad without

lost to view, by reason of several small surrounding chains of hills, on which an occasional patch of green indicates the industry of some Indian family; the natives, strangely enough, choosing such spots in preference to the plains below.

Whilst travelling along this road I was overtaken by an Abacanian, mounted on a powerful horse, and whom I recognised as a bootmaker at La Paz. I do not profess to be much of a physiognomist, but this man's character was, if I mistake not, visibly written upon his countenance. Everything in his features told so plainly of dissipation, roguery, and such like qualities, that, ere he spoke a word, I began to regard him as a very undesirable companion. After the customary salutation, he informed me that his destination was Tucuman, and asked permission to accompany me for six or seven days, when he discovered that my road lay in the same direction. Before returning him

having their eyes protected by masks with glasses of green or neutral tint, the brilliant reflection from the ground, under the influence of a mid-day sun, being such that there is the danger of a contraction of a severe disorder in the eyes, unless so protected.

an answer I calculated on my chances of being able to get rid of him without acceding to his request. Upon consideration I saw that it was impossible to give him the slip, since he was too well mounted for that, and that an uncourteous repulse would be decidedly impolitic, for I might find him a dangerous and disagreeable enemy in so desolate a journey. I made up my mind, therefore, to put a good face upon the matter, and make the best of a bad bargain; and so, with well-affected grace, I politely granted him the permission he asked.

Off we started, then, in the very best of fellowship, and soon came in sight of the town of Calamarca; the parish church, as is usual in these wild regions, with its white-washed *façade* and its more imposing size, forming a strong contrast with the miserable little mud-hovels that surround it, and affording a very distinct landmark to the weary traveller. On a small elevation that commands the town stands a clean-looking chapel, with an enclosure adjoining it, which no doubt is the Pantheon or cemetery of the locality. The post is a large building, forming three sides of a square, and containing a

great number of rooms, the largest of which, as usual, contain two bedsteads. The *patio* in the centre of the quadrangle is very commodious, the fourth side of the square being formed by *corrales* for the animals.*

On my arrival I found the great room occupied by a party of Argentines, who were dressed completely in character for the road, with their silver spurs and their silver-hilted stilettos stuck in the garters of their *polinos*, or gaiters. These gentlemen, who seemed old travellers in these parts, were carrying everything before them; ordering about the postmaster, the *semanero*, postilions, and Indians, without the slightest apparent scruple of conscience at the gratuitous trouble they were exacting from all around them;

* The best advice I can give to a traveller, if he has any saddled mules of his own, is to allow them to remain saddled till they are perfectly cooled, then to order half a quintal of barley, half of which he should place with his luggage, if he is fortunate enough to get a room to himself. He should then place the other half before the door, and let his animals eat their fill; for if they are sent to the *corral*, the Indians during the night rob them of their food, and the poor animals will be found the next day unable to perform their journey without any apparently assignable cause.

and although they, who never gave a *sous* for the trouble they gave, were waited upon most nimbly by the servants, I hardly found any one to notice me, who was patient and polite, and willing to pay for any accommodation I met with. However, I learnt a very good lesson in what I had seen; and, acting upon the hint, I began to issue my commands in a more authoritative tone, which had the desired effect, for I found my wishes executed most promptly, even to the neglect of the imperious Argentines.

Having contrived to get the worst room in the house, so that nobody should envy me, I enjoyed the luxury of being alone, and partook of some refreshment with good appetite, and soon retired to rest. In the middle of the night I was awaked by the patter of horses' hoofs, and learnt that another batch of travellers had arrived, and were busily looking out for quarters. They crowded so much the rooms, already too much occupied, that my companion, the shoemaker, had to seek another asylum, and sought refuge in my room; an accommodation to which I could not reasonably object, seeing that everything in the post belonged to all in

common. After smoking his cigar, spreading his ponchos, and arranging his saddle so as to serve as a pillow, he betook himself to rest, and I trusted soon to find myself in the enjoyment of the refreshing repose which my fatigues demanded.

Several times during the night, however, I was awakened from my dozings by the noise arising from the opening of the door of my room; and at length, losing all patience, I informed my companion that he risked his life by subjecting me to so much annoyance; for, being startled from my sleep, I might in the impulse of the moment, and without considering who he was, blow his brains out, and so end the matter. This announcement was evidently not quite palatable to his feelings; but, in justification of his conduct, he told me that he was expecting a friend from La Paz,—though, not to offend me further, he would for the future remain quiet. The expected friend soon afterwards made his appearance, and without any ceremony proceeded to enter my apartment.

Jumping out of bed in the dark, I, in the most emphatic and determined manner, informed the two that this second intrusion I

would most certainly resent by turning them both out; so, after a short conference between them, the friend left, and all became again quiet, so that I was left to my repose for the remainder of the night. Early next morning I discovered, to my astonishment, that the said friend was a half-caste negro gaucho, and as cut-throat a specimen of the race as ever I beheld in the whole course of my life, whilst, stuck in his saddle, there was the suspicious appendage of a knife at least a foot and a half long.

When I was prepared to depart, I was accosted by the Argentines, who seemed in some slight degree to have made my acquaintance at La Paz. Here, far from the city, where perhaps I might have known just sufficient of them to exchange the common civilities of life, and no more, they became, all at once, very familiar with me, taking advantage of a traveller's licence to claim as his intimate friends, when from home, those with whom he has hitherto been on terms only of mere speaking acquaintance. Away from the haunts of civilized life, a feeling of dependence one upon the other breaks through all the barriers with which

the forms of society have hedged us in, and in the course of five minutes persons acquire a knowledge of each other which they fail to arrive at, under other circumstances, during years of acquaintance.

The preliminaries of introduction were soon passed through with these my new friends. They congratulated themselves on their good fortune in meeting with me, and promised themselves much pleasure in my society during a few days, till the necessity of our separation, when our routes should lie in contrary directions. They expressed their disapproval of the companions who had so coolly taken possession of my quarters; but, as these were travelling the same road as ourselves, they advised me to keep on good terms with them, as I had no alternative but to put up with their society. We all agreed to meet at the next post that night, but they regretted that it was out of their power to accompany me, as they had to wait for some baggage mules to join them, which would necessarily greatly retard their pace. I therefore started alone, with the understanding that they would overtake me before my arrival at the next post.

For the first part of my journey the road still continued level, the plain assuming, however, a different appearance to what I had hitherto seen. It was entirely covered over with clumps of brushwood of the myrtle class, which, as I proceeded, became thicker and stronger, forming a formidable cover and impregnating the air with its delicious fragrance. Here numerous coves of doves had fixed their habitation, and seem to accompany the traveller for several leagues.* In

* In travelling in these parts I was particularly struck with the great number of these birds, which accompanied my path, alighting on the ground generally twenty or thirty feet in advance of the mule I was riding. To an amateur sportsman the practice thus afforded him is, without exception, the most profitable he can ever enjoy. The birds can be shot with the greatest facility, without the necessity of his diverging many yards from the main road; and, as he proceeds leisurely from one post to another, he can bag some hundreds of them, if he thinks fit, and so provide himself with a good stew for his evening repast. On these plains the birds breed in vast numbers, unmolested by the approach of man. The Indians, being unprovided with fire-arms, have no means of destroying them, and I verily believe that they have a distaste for small birds, as they contrive no means whatever for capturing the little wanderers.

the midst of it all flows a delightful crystal stream, forming several pools and small lakes, whose moss-covered banks, caves, and natural grottoes, are pleasing features in the tranquil scene.

Whilst surveying the prospect before me, my attention was attracted to a gentleman seated on the ground near one of these mossy slopes, his mule being tethered to a rock that stood near him. I saluted him as I passed on and continued my route alone. However, feeling the loneliness of his solitary ride, he seemed to have made up his mind to overtake me, which he was not long in doing, and we entered into conversation. I soon recognised Dr. Cordero, of La Paz, one of the deputies going to congress. He was a gentleman of a sound and well cultivated mind, and gave me the benefit of his observation and experience in matters relating to the state. He expatiated largely upon the vast mineral resources of the republic, if only in the hands of a stationary and wise government, but "Alas!" said he, "since the extinction of the Spanish dominion, the dictators that have followed have consulted only their own personal ambition and the accu-

mulation of wealth, impoverishing the state by party feuds, and neglecting the true source of the industry, commerce, and greatness of a country."

From this his conversation turned to his countryman, Bustamante, of whom he spake in the highest terms, showing how he had sacrificed fortune, happiness, and friends, for the purpose of seeking truth in the vast field of the civilized continent of the old world, satisfied if he could, by any means, make the fruits of his observation conducive to the advancement and enlightenment of his own country. The doctor acknowledged that it would have been better, had this task been undertaken by an older and more experienced hand; but the defects which must attach to the works of a young writer were, said he, so atoned for by the motives which led to their publication, and the zeal and earnestness which had been exhibited in the attainment and selection of the materials, that he could not but congratulate the writer on the good results likely to accrue from his extensive and disinterested labours in the service of his country.

So absorbed were we in scanning the merits

and demerits of Senor Bustamante's new work on the politics of Europe, that it was some time before we noticed that our patient beasts had conducted us to the dry bed of a river, where we were at last reduced to a serious dilemma, in having to choose between two cross-roads, leading in opposite directions. Being well mounted,* we had outridden our respective baggage-mules and attendants, and I had completely lost sight of my two unpleasant companions of the night before. This latter circumstance was certainly more a matter of congratulation than otherwise; but here we found ourselves—whilst evening was drawing on apace—in a desolate part of the country, and far from all habitations, without the

* A traveller who studies his own comfort, should endeavour to procure, before he commences his journey, a *mulo de passo*, as these animals are capable of maintaining through the day a certain steady pace, without causing the least jolting, thus avoiding the fatigue usually attendant upon long rides. Some of these animals are valued at from seventy to two hundred dollars. In fact, I saw an Englishman who had given for one that, to outward appearance, possessed few recommendations, the large sum of three hundred dollars. They are to be procured at Tacna, or, perhaps, better at La Paz.

shadow of a clue as to which road we should take. The idea of passing the night on the plains, where, after the sun has set, the air is sufficiently sharp and biting to be anything but agreeable, with the additional inconvenience of having partaken of no food since five in the morning, was a prospect by no means encouraging. The doctor declaimed most ruefully against the want of maps, directions, and sign-posts, to which the traveller in these regions is subject, but vented his indignation to no purpose; for here we were at a complete stand-still, and it was necessary to take immediate and determined measures to escape from the predicament in which we found ourselves. To reckon upon the chances of our meeting with any one who could relieve us from our dilemma was futile, as in a country so scanty of population, you may travel for whole days without seeing a human being; or, if you chance to meet one, without a knowledge of the Amarah dialect you are completely at fault, receiving the everlasting answer, "*Anue*," to all your inquiries.

After waiting some time in fruitless anxiety and complaint, I remarked that merely look-

ing about us, or remaining dormant, was not the way to mend the matter. To the truth of my assertion, the doctor signified his acquiescence, but when I told him that I proposed that we should cast lots to determine which of the roads we ought to take, he was not so satisfied as to the soundness of my advice. This was a mode of solving difficulties which had never entered into his philosophy; but not being able to suggest a better method, after a little hesitation he consented to my proposition. I was fortunate enough to be the winner of the toss, and according to agreement, had now the power of deciding upon our course. I, therefore, selected the road which most pleased my fancy, which, to our great joy, turned out to be the right one. It led us directly to the post of Hayohayo, where we were glad to find the food and shelter we required, the doctor congratulating me in high glee, at the success of my novel mode of determining cases of doubt.

Diverging a little from the highroad, we found the post, so desirable a termination to our day's journey, to be a square building, smaller in dimensions than such buildings

usually are. Having entered the post-master's room, I drew forth from my holsters a bottle of excellent sherry, together with sundry cigars, with which the doctor and myself regaled ourselves with much *gusto*; the latter acknowledging that the forethought of the English in providing necessaries was proverbial, and that, on the present occasion especially, it met his decided approbation. In fact, I found my new friend rather addicted, than otherwise, to the creature comforts of this life; and on the arrival of his baggage mules, after the lapse of two hours, he determined to push on to the next post, where he understood he should be able to find better accommodation. He was strengthened in his desire to do so, from the account he had from me of my road companions, whom I had unceremoniously left in the lurch, but whom I was expecting every moment to join me.

This was a very urgent reason to induce me to follow his example, and, indeed, he endeavoured most strenuously to prevail on me to accompany him, but I would not consent to leave the post till the arrival of my baggage, and of my friends the Argentines,

whom I had promised to meet there. With many good wishes for each other's success the doctor and I parted, congratulating ourselves at the acquaintance we had made, and expressing many a hope of being enabled to renew it on some future occasion. However, before his departure, the doctor was determined to give me a sample of his skill in his art, and also to show how he could leave a lasting impression on the good people of the inn. The postmaster was a tall, thin, emaciated individual, half Indian and half Cholo, possessing a most eccentric pair of legs, and altogether by no means prepossessing as regarded his outward man. It was on this person that the learned doctor proposed to exert his skill; so, assuming all the importance of which he was capable, drawing himself up to his full height, and casting a most scrutinizing look at the object of his kind attentions, he entered upon the following conversation with him, which, at the time, afforded me much merriment, and which, I trust, the reader will pardon me for recounting.

Doctor.—"Ahem! Judging from your complexion, you must be out of health?"

(his physiognomy resembled in colour a brass tea-kettle more than anything else that I can remember). Postmaster, answering tremblingly,—"I am unwell, senor." Doctor,—"Ahem! suffering from a pain in the liver and back-bone?" Postmaster,—"Yes, senor." Doctor,—"Ah! adhesion of the liver. Lost your appetite, and a great desire to drink, ay?" Postmaster,—"Y-e-s, senor." Doctor,—"Humph!" Here the doctor was interrupted by the postmaster's wife, a Cholo woman, who feeling called upon to interpose on behalf of her husband, declared that so far from lacking appetite, he was for eating anything he could lay his hands on; and as for drink, he would drink spirits for a month, if he had but the chance. The doctor, taken aback by this interference, soon recovered his self-importance, and checked the woman's loquacity by a "Silence, woman!" Postmaster, seconding the doctor's sharp rebuke,—"Silence, woman!" Doctor,—"Ahem! You are restless in your sleep?" Postmaster,—"No—yes, sir." Woman,—"He never even wishes me a good night, and snores like a pig." Doctor,—"Silence, woman!" Postmaster,—"Silence, woman!" At this

juncture, I was obliged to leave the room, or make a hole in my manners, by laughing outright, so I chose the former alternative.

On my return I found out that the Doctor had enumerated every malady under the sun, and had so frightened the poor man, that he really fancied himself ill, and promised to follow a course of treatment, which his sage adviser had prescribed for the long catalogue of diseases from which he confessed that he was suffering.

"You must derive much pleasure and satisfaction," said I to the Doctor, "in performing so agreeable a task as that of ministering to the wants of the afflicted, and relieving them of their bodily ailments. They owe you a debt of lasting gratitude, and you must feel that the blessings which they invoke upon your head are not undeserved." The Doctor blushed, and owned that he felt gratified, little thinking that I was making fun of him; for I certainly saw nothing to admire in his frightening a poor fellow out of his senses, and making him believe himself to be a doomed man, when in fact there was nothing the matter with him, merely for the sake of indulging in a

display of a little egotistical parade of his superior learning.

After the Doctor had taken his leave of me, I was for some time quite alone, my mules not making their appearance till some time afterwards, when, much to my satisfaction, they arrived safe and sound. The sun by this time had sunk below the horizon, and the air of the evening was becoming cool. Therefore, selecting a by no means comfortable room, in order that I might not be envied by my fellow travellers, as I was desirous of spending the night alone, I began to occupy it, having first piled up my ponchos to form a door, and barred the entrance of the night air through the window aperture as effectually as I could. After a while my two Argentine friends arrived, followed by my two unwelcome companions of the last post. These were obliged to provide themselves with all that was necessary out of doors, and we made them spend the remainder of the night *al fresco*, determined as we were not to admit them into our dormitories on any terms. They well knew that they had no chance of resistance against our superior force, and therefore

contented themselves with the accommodation they found in the court-yard.

I had now no fear of being molested, although my quarters were of so poor a description. My Argentine friends saluted me in a most friendly manner on their arrival, and pressed me most urgently to join them in their cups of tea-punch, in the indulgence of which luxury they were, it appears, in the habit of passing the night, occasionally with the accompaniment of a song, or a little strumming on a guitar. However, I politely declined their courteous invitation, preferring, after having partaken of a *chupe*, and sundry good cups of tea, to retire to rest and invigorate my body for the fatigues of the following day.

In the morning I was up betimes, and had my animals loaded, and made a fair start before any of my companions had even breakfasted. Whilst I was loitering about, previous to my departure, in order that I might settle the expenses I had incurred for my night's lodging and victuals, I had the opportunity of seeing a little roguery successfully practised. The friend, whom the boot-maker had introduced to my notice, and

would have forced upon me contrary to my inclination, had ridden an animal vicious in the extreme, and possessing sundry other defects, which made the beast not worth his fodder. He had probably been stolen, and this was an additional reason why his present owner should wish to part with him. The two friends, having trimmed him up during the night, and given him as respectable an appearance as possible, laid siege to the unfortunate post-master, and tried to barter this horse of theirs for a strong bay gelding, which took their fancy, and offered, as a piece of great liberality, to throw a pair of buff Argentine boots into the bargain. The bait took. These Indian Choloes, amongst their many other faults, have no small share of love of show, or vanity. So the worthy post-master was regularly cajoled into a disadvantageous exchange, and no doubt for some time afterwards repented of his folly, in thus being made so easy a victim.

Starting in the bright rays of a morning sun, and braced with the cool and balmy breezes of early day, I enjoyed excessively my solitary ride upon leaving the post, and began to consider myself admirably calcu-

lated for that mode of travelling, so often described by tourists, in which the Gouchoes cross their apparently boundless plains. On all sides there was a dense cover of heather of so gigantic growth that it seemed almost impenetrable, and, indeed, presented a decided obstacle to the most enterprising traveller, except in those beaten paths which had been occasionally worn there by the tread of animals. After disturbing numerous flocks of doves, which broke the current of my thoughts by the rustling sound they produced on leaving the ground, I began to enter a tract of country of a more mountainous character, and soon after reached the post of Chicla.

This is a large square building, containing accommodation for half a battalion, attached to which is a shop filled with all sorts of luxuries, bread, chocolate, *pisco*, *chichia*, oranges, and many other things not to be met with in many a day's weary march. In the corner of the spacious court-yard I observed a magnificent piece of Spanish ordnance, a remnant, apparently, of their former dominion, but now utterly neglected and scarcely noticed. Refreshing myself with a

draught of *chichia*, and the fumes of a cigar, I ordered my saddle mule to be well taken care of, and other post mules to be provided for my baggage, and then started again as fresh as if I had not already ridden fifteen miles. On entering the gorge or mountain-pass, through which I had to wind my way on leaving the posts, the scenery became grand in the extreme, hill after hill forming a mighty amphitheatre, at whose back the lofty peaks of the snow-capped mountains ascended to the very vault of heaven.

In the centre arose a beautiful *plateau*, covered with fine velvety herbage, on which numerous herds of tame llamas, divested by their Indian drovers of their heavy burdens, gracefully browsed in the quiet enjoyment of agreeable companionship; whilst on the hills and rocky prominences, their wilder brethren, the becunas, bounded from crag to crag, or gazed with wonder at everything which disturbed them in their lone retreat. On quitting this range, the hills became less high and more broken, assuming the appearance of a *cabrada*. At this point the glare arising from several pools of water, into which run streams impregnated by the salt-

petre beds, was so great that I was obliged to have recourse to my velvet mask and eye-glasses.*

Whilst my visionary organs were thus disguised I encountered several Indians conducting a number of heavily-laden asses. On seeing me, they crossed themselves and took to their heels, leaving their charges entirely at my mercy—no doubt imagining me to be a visitant from some other world, and, possibly, a dangerous character to be found at large in his rambles on this globe of ours. The locality through which I was passing is particularly subject to violent gusts of wind, which raise columns of salt or dust into the air, desolating the country around, and sweeping everything before them with a rapidity truly surprising. After passing these uninviting tracts of land, the road suddenly assumes another aspect. Ver-

* To avoid the ill effects arising from the extreme brilliancy of the snowy ranges, when lighted up by a noon-day sun, as well as the bright reflection from the lakes in certain saline districts, travellers generally provide themselves with masks, or eye-glasses, fixed in a leather band, which can be put on as occasion might require, and are extremely serviceable in relieving the eyes from the intense glare to which they are subjected.

dure and healthful vegetation now gladden the sight, and in the midst of a country teeming with all the delights of rural life appears the clean and prettily-situated town of Sicasica, with its large and commodious church, possessing some claims to architectural beauty. The houses and streets are excessively neat, and the post-house at which I stopped contains every accommodation for the traveller. The postmaster is a very superior man, and I must do him the justice to say that his mules are in first-rate order. Having taken in a fresh supply of new bread, oranges, &c., I loaded another set of mules, and started afresh.

I adopted a very successful stratagem to get rid of my suspicious companions at a former post, and that was, being well mounted on a valuable *mulo de passo*, that could with ease travel the whole day at the rate of four miles the hour, to start in advance of my luggage, and, arriving at the post an hour or so before it, to get all the refreshment and repose necessary for myself, so that, on the arrival of my baggage, it was only necessary to get it transferred to the fresh post mules that I had ordered, and again to set forth on

my journey. They, on the contrary, having to travel for a month or more, probably hired their animals for the whole period, and thus I was enabled to outstrip them; or, perhaps, seeing that I took no notice of them, they kept aloof, particularly as they knew I was well backed by my Argentine friends.

The road from this town retained its agreeable features, the adjoining country being well watered by a beautiful and pellucid stream. As I proceeded, the old Redacto claimed my attention; a large square adobe fortification, with its loop-holes commanding every approach; and, no doubt, during the early struggle for independence, a place of great strength and importance. Following the course of the little river till it loses much of its purity, and forms itself into a small lake, well impregnated by various minerals, I found myself close to the post of Panduro. This was a building like the rest, with similar conveniences. Having secured one of the smaller rooms, I partook of an excellent dinner, consisting of *chupe* (in the cooking of which, for the benefit of travellers, many Indian women are constantly

employed in all these establishments), and ribs of mutton broiled, a delicacy of the first order for the famished traveller. Whilst waiting for my baggage, I amused myself with a young vicuna, remarkably tame, with whom a set of Indian children were playing in the yard on terms of the greatest familiarity. He bounded about most gracefully, and came to feed out of my hand without showing any symptom of timidity. Retiring to rest after indulging in a refreshing cup of tea, I fell into a very sound sleep, and was not made aware of the arrival of my Argentine friends till the next morning, the sound of the guitars, their songs, and their midnight orgies having failed to arouse me from the deep repose into which I had fallen. Being generally astir in the morning before any of my companions, I got served first, and completed all my arrangements before they commenced preparations for action.

On leaving the post, I observed that the green and healthy appearance of the heather began to decline. It gradually became more and more stunted, and at last visibly disappeared altogether. The monotony of the road, however, was happily relieved by the

appearance of large herds of llamas, under the charge of Indian families; troops of donkeys laden with drugs and other necessaries, on their way from Cochabamba to La Paz, and occasionally large numbers of horses and mules, driven from the far Argentine provinces, in order to be sold in the principal towns of Bolivia and Peru. On descending from the brow of a hill, the town of Caracollo appears to view, and on a slight elevation on the other side of the road are a number of Indian monuments of very peculiar construction and shape, resembling in form and position, though on a far less scale, the Druidical ruins to be seen in various parts of England. These monuments are often to be met with in a journey through these parts, and are, according to the Indian tradition, the dwelling-places of the little people—dwarfs or fairies, and as such are supposed to possess supernatural powers and charms.

END OF VOL. I.

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